

Orange Cove Neighborhood Library

Fresno County Public Library

Community Needs Assessment

October 2003

Prepared by
Drew Harrington
Library Building Consulting
Eugene, Oregon

**Orange Cove Neighborhood Library
Fresno County Public Library
Community Needs Assessment**

Table of Contents

October 2003

I.	Introduction and Executive Summary	1
II.	Assessment Methodology	3
	A. Executive Summary	3
	B. Planning Effort	5
	C. Community Input Strategies	7
	1. Group Meetings, Class Visits & Focus Groups	8
	2. Community Forums	8
	3. Interviews	9
	4. Surveys	10
	5. Service Area Residents' Comments & Suggestions	11
	6. Library Staff	12
	7. School Collaboration Planning	12
III.	Community Analysis	17
	A. Executive Summary	17
	B. Service Area & Service Area Map	19
	C. Summary of Community Input	21
	D. Government Agencies and Officials	23
	E. School Agencies	29
	F. Community Organizations	30
	G. Demographic Profile	31
	1. Population – Current and Trends	31
	2. Age Breakdown	32
	3. Students, Schools and API Scores	33
	4. Educational Attainment and Adult Literacy Rate	38
	5. Ethnic Breakdown	40
	6. Household Characteristics	43
	7. Income Levels and Poverty Rate	44
	8. Employment and Occupations	46
	9. Housing Property Values	49
	H. Analysis and Discussion of Community Characteristics	50
IV.	Library Service Needs	52
	A. Executive Summary	52
	B. Library Services Needed but Currently Unavailable	54
	C. Overview of Current Library Service	54
	D. Overall Service Needs	55
	E. Technology Access for the Orange Cove Community	56
	F. Services to Children and Their Families	57
	G. Services to Students	58
	H. Services to Teens	59
	I. Services to Adults	60

V.	Service Limitations of the Existing Library	62
	A. Executive Summary	62
	B. Size and Facilities	64
	C. Noise and Congestion	64
	D. Seating	64
	E. Collections and Shelving	65
	F. Computers and Technology	66
	G. Study and Tutoring	66
	H. Programming and Meeting Space	67
	I. School Library Services	67
VI.	Physical Limitations of the Existing Library	70
	A. Executive Summary	70
	B. Facility Size and Structure	72
	C. Location and Visibility	73
	D. Parking	73
	E. Restrooms & Water Fountains	73
	F. Noise	74
	G. Functionality and Efficiency	74
	H. ADA Access	75
	I. Safety and Security	75
VII.	Space Needs Assessment	76
	A. Introduction and Spaces Summary	76
	B. Collections and Shelving	79
	1. Books	80
	2. Audiovisual Media	81
	3. Cultural Diversity	81
	4. Magazines and Newspapers	82
	C. Reader Seats	82
	1. General Seating	83
	2. Study Seating	83
	3. Children's Seating	84
	4. Teen Seating	84
	D. Technology	85
	E. Staff Office and Workspace	86
	F. Programming and Meeting Room Space	87
	G. Non-assignable Space	88

Tables

1.	Population: 1990, 2000	19
2.	Service Area Schools Enrollment	30
3.	Service Area Population: 2000, 2020	31
4.	Population by Age: 2000	33
5.	School Enrollment by Ethnicity: 2002-03	35
6.	API Growth Report: 2002-03	36
7.	API Base Report: 2002	37
8.	Characteristics of Orange Cove Elementary School Students	37
9.	Population by Educational Attainment for Persons 25: 2000	38

10. Adult Literacy Estimates	39
11. Population by Ethnicity, Service Area: 2000	41
12. English Proficiency & Language Spoken at Home: 2000	42
13. Average Number of People per Household: 2000	43
14. Households: 2000	44
15. Income Breakdown: 1999	44
16. Poverty Level: 1999	45
17. Unemployment Rates: 1999-2003	46
18. Workforce by Industry: 2000	49
19. Median Property Value: 1990, 2000	50
20. Occupied Housing Units by Type of Occupant: 2000	50
21. California School Library Funding	68
22. Spaces Summary	77
23. Square Footage Conversion Factors	78
24. Staff Projections	86

Appendices

- A Community Forum Summaries and Comments
- B Community Interview Summaries
- C Group Meeting, Class Visit & Focus Group Summaries
- D Library Reader Seating
- E Library Collections and Shelving Needs
- F Sources Consulted and Planning Guides Used

I. Introduction and Executive Summary

Orange Cove has been a farm town since the railroad came through about 90 years ago. The small city is in the heart of the citrus belt, and the local economy has long relied heavily on agriculture and its support services. The annual uncertainties of farming, and reliance on a single industry have contributed to daunting economic hardships for the area. Remarkably, Orange Cove has more people living in poverty, (44.54%), than any other city in California.

In spite of poverty, and in response to encouraging developments, the City of Orange Cove and the surrounding rural areas are growing and changing. The 2000 Census counted 8,767 residents in the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library service area, and the service area is projected to grow by 60% in the coming years to a population of 14,000 by the year 2020. The majority of residents of the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library service area are Hispanic of any race—87.7%. White, non-Hispanic residents make up an additional 9.6% of the population.

To break the cycle of poverty in Orange Cove and to help address many associated problems, the City has adopted a strategy and is implementing a phased plan to improve the lives of its residents by creating a more diverse employment base and a more livable city. An impressive number of transforming projects have been completed or are underway in Orange Cove in the areas of education, business and economics, and quality of life improvements.

Economic poverty is invariably associated with demographic characteristics that keep people from realizing their full potential. In the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library service area, 54% of residents, over-age-25, have less than a 9th grade level of formal education, and more than 70% have not received a high school diploma or GED certificate. Insufficient English language and literacy skills are a limiting factor for many Orange Cove residents; 49% report speaking English less than very well, and between 56%-66% of all kindergarten aged students are English Language Learners. The median individual income in the service area is only \$7,897, as compared with \$22,711 statewide, and the two elementary schools in the service area report that between 98%-99% of children qualify for free or reduced cost meals. As a result of area poverty, the community is an example of the “digital divide,” where people at lower socio-economic levels have less access to technology and so fall further and further behind. In today’s world this is a significant obstacle in the path to progress.

The Orange Cove Neighborhood Library has served the community for 88 years, always from leased spaces that were not designed as libraries. The current location, which has housed the neighborhood library for twenty-eight years, was constructed in 1944. Though the space totals 2,500 square feet, more than 40% of that space is not publicly accessible, so only 1,434 square feet are available for public services. The small size and poor layout of the leased facility, combined with a completely inadequate technology infrastructure and other serious physical and service limitations, make it impossible for the library to provide an appropriate level of service to the community. Today, when Orange Cove is poised for positive growth and development, a permanent, county-owned library for the community will be key to the success of the education and quality of life initiatives that have been set in motion.

The library serves a young community, with children and youth making up an unusually large portion of the population—43.7% of residents are 19 years of age or younger. The neighborhood library currently serves two public elementary schools, and one public middle school. Currently, Orange Cove High School students are bused to the City of Reedley, which is 9 miles away, to attend school. Two additional public schools are being constructed in Orange Cove; a middle school to replace the current undersized facility will open its doors in the fall of 2004, and the community's first-ever high school, which will open in the fall of 2005. When the new middle school is completed, the current Citrus Middle School will be renovated to serve as an additional elementary school for the community. The new schools will place additional library service demands on the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library.

During the community needs assessment, residents and educators spoke of the importance of library services to children and students, and the need for technology access and technology training in the new library. To respond to those concerns, the new library will include a Homework Center where school children will find homework space, tools and assistance. The Homework Center will be a joint venture project, planned to meet the shared educational goals of the Kings Canyon Unified School District and the Library. A Technology Learning Lab will provide students, their families and others in the community with tremendously improved computer access and training. Adults in the community are sorely in need of opportunities to improve their language and employment skills through better access to, and understanding of, modern technology. Residents of the library service area require day-to-day use of electronic information and communication tools.

Multiple initiatives are underway in Orange Cove in the areas of education, economics and quality of life improvement. The service area community is poised for transformation, and will rely on an equally transformed neighborhood library to accomplish many of its goals. The following service levels are recommended to meet the current and future needs of the community served by the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library:

- A collection of 32,200 books and audiovisual materials, tailored to the bi-lingual needs of the community;
- 28 public computers to include a Technology Learning Lab with 10 computer stations for technology training, as well as a Multi-Purpose Community Room equipped with 12 laptop computers in addition to the 28 stationary machines;
- A Homework Center, jointly planned by the Library and the School District to meet the considerable needs of school age children and teens in grades K-12;
- 51 reader seats plus 6 seats in a Group Study, Conference and Tutoring Room;
- A Multi-Purpose Community Room to seat 60, which will provide space for regular children's programming and for special programs for teens and adults; and
- An area for two and three-dimensional art and culture displays to include materials related to area history and the predominant Latino culture.

These recommendations are based on an assessment of community needs and priorities that were identified by consulting community leaders, community residents, area demographics and library strategic planning documents.

II. Assessment Methodology

A. Executive Summary

Orange Cove is moving forward, and a new neighborhood library will be key to the transformation of this small city. Numerous education, economic and quality of life projects are underway in Orange Cove, and the new library will go far in helping the City and service area residents to achieve their goals.

In order to assess the service and collection needs for the new library, planners sought to fully understand the challenges faced by the entire community and how they relate to significant changes that are taking place in the service area.

In response to the long-standing need for improved library service in the Orange Cove service area, and based on findings in the Library's 2003 master facilities study, *The Heart of a Community: Its Public Library*, the Fresno County Public Library undertook active planning for a new facility to replace the leased Orange Cove Neighborhood Library with a modern, county-owned facility. The County decided to seek Library Construction Bond grant funding to support a portion of the costs to design and construct the much needed neighborhood library.

The Library engaged the services of professional consultants to address multiple components of the needs assessment. Godbe Research and Analysis was engaged to conduct an extensive, system-wide survey. Teter Consultants, LLP was engaged to assist the County in project planning for the new neighborhood library. The planning effort was aided by many and included the participation of a Fresno County Public Library Project Planning committee, community leaders, school district representatives and service area residents.

Assessment of community needs, as they relate to library services, was approached on multiple fronts.

- More than one hundred service area residents, representing a range of ages and interests, participated in discussions about their community and how a new Orange Cove Neighborhood Library can best meet their needs. Not only were residents invited to participate in the process, but planners also reached out to the community and sought input by going to places where the community gathers.
- Civic and education leaders were interviewed to tap their extensive experience and their insights into community patterns and problems.
- City officials spent considerable time with planners, defining the process of development in Orange Cove and their plans for improving the lives of people in this community of the poor.
- School District staff collaborated with library planners to explore the educational challenges faced by children and families in the Orange Cove service area, and to brainstorm possible joint venture projects that will help to address service area needs.

- Library staff and administration guided the process of community input based on their comprehensive knowledge of the service area.

In addition to critical community input, extensive demographic information was gathered and analyzed, confirming and illustrating the potentially overwhelming challenges voiced by residents of the service community.

Significant documents, articles and reports relating to long-range library planning, city planning and area news were carefully reviewed in order to incorporate previous planning conclusions in the needs assessment process.

Data gathered in a system-wide library survey, patron comment cards, and library statistics for collection, service and usage patterns were analyzed in order to further understand the needs and preferences of service area residents.

The Orange Cove Neighborhood Library serves a city with the dubious distinction of having the highest percentage of people living in poverty of any city in the State of California. This statistic is sobering, and there are numerous social ills underlying it. A new neighborhood library to serve Orange Cove and the surrounding rural areas offers the opportunity to address the needs of the community. In order to plan a new library that will advance the forward movement of Orange Cove, planners made every effort to conduct a thorough assessment of service area needs and to understand positive initiatives currently at work in the community.

B. Planning Effort

Periodic, devastating citrus freezes in Orange Cove can bring the local economy to a halt. This occurred twice in the 1990s, resulting in crushing hardship for the residents of the City and the surrounding rural areas. To provide a more stable existence for the people of the area, Orange Cove city leaders came together to consider options to create greater economic diversification. To realize economic diversification and to improve the lives of Orange Cove residents, community leaders understood that they had to address deep-rooted problems on a variety of fronts—education, business and economic expansion and quality of life issues.

Local industry was almost totally limited to agriculture and agricultural support services associated with citrus growing. The dusty main commercial street in town was lined with tired-looking shops, and the availability of even basic shopping needs was severely limited. Statistically, residents had a markedly low level of education and there were few local opportunities for people to improve their education or skill levels. Almost no households could afford a home computer, effectively denying residents access to modern information technology. Language barriers and a lack of early childhood education put children behind before they ever entered school, and high school students were bused to the City of Reedley to attend school because there was no local high school. The Orange Cove Neighborhood Library, housed in a leased, too small, shabby storefront could provide only limited local collections and services to the community. The few city parks were rundown and there were almost no recreational choices for children, teens or adults.

Between 1997 and the present, city leaders developed a strategy to address development and began implementing a plan to transform Orange Cove. Since that time the residents of Orange Cove have passed a school bond issue, the City has received key grants, and critical funding designations have been put in place, building a foundation for change. Measurable progress has been made and Orange Cove is clearly moving forward.

On the education front, three new public schools are under construction or in final design planning, vocational and apprenticeship programs are operating successfully, a model pre-school program is serving hundreds of young children and a private university is finalizing plans for local degree programs in the field of education. Fresno County Public Library is seeking a Library Bond Act Grant to construct a new, appropriately sized neighborhood library to serve the City of Orange Cove and surrounding rural areas.

Critical infrastructure is in place, or in planning, to support business and economic growth, including expanded surface water allocations, a new water and sewage treatment system and improved transportation connections. Recent economic developments to enhance the existing agricultural industry and to also diversify the local economy, include expansion of fruit packing houses, grant supported planning for a business park, development of a regional shopping center with a private sector investor, and the establishment of a tile manufacturing plant.

Residents are witnessing an improved quality of life in their small city. Recent beautification of the main commercial street includes landscaping, new lighting, and

fresh, professionally designed building facades on downtown shops. A new senior center is under construction, existing parks are being renovated, and a new, state-of-the-art skateboard park is being installed.

The planning effort for the new Orange Cove Neighborhood Library has been especially important in light of the overall plan to transform the City, and to vastly improve the lives of the people of Orange Cove. A successful Library Bond Act application, leading to construction of a beautiful new library with appropriately sized and selected collections, sufficient computers to help close the “digital divide,” and much needed services and programs for all age levels, will go far in helping the City and service area residents to achieve their goals.

For planning purposes, in 1998 and again in 2003, Godbe Research & Analysis, a California research firm, was engaged by the Fresno County Public Library to conduct system-wide telephone surveys of library service satisfaction, library service needs and public perception of library services. The 2003 survey was conducted between March 21-April 9, 2003. One thousand people completed the survey interview.

In 2003 the Fresno County Board of Supervisors adopted a master facilities study and strategic plan, *The Heart of a Community: Its Public Library*, to meet library facility needs for Fresno County Residents, from 2002-2020. The plan assessed size and condition deficiencies of library facilities and developed principles for selection of projects in need of improvement. The study showed that the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library was “unacceptable” in size. Regarding condition, the many deficiencies of the building were recognized, but strategies to address facility deficiencies were not developed because the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library is housed in leased space. The types of improvements that can be made in leased property are limited and funding can be put to more lasting use in developing a new, county-owned facility, and to improvements in collections, and services for the benefit of the public.

In the spring of 2003, based on the findings of the facilities study and in response to the long-standing need for improved library service in the Orange Cove service area, the Fresno County Public Library undertook active planning for a new library facility to replace the leased Orange Cove facility. It was decided to seek California Library Construction Bond Act funding to support 65% of the costs to design and construct the much-needed facility.

Teter Consultants, LLP was engaged to assist the County in a planning effort for the new neighborhood library. The project consulting team included Robert V. Thornton, Architect with Teter Consultants, Paul N. Halajian, Architect with the Taylor Group and Drew Harrington, Library Consultant. The consulting team worked with the Fresno County Public Library to complete this community needs assessment and to develop preliminary architectural plans for the new Orange Cove Neighborhood Library.

The planning process included participation by a Fresno County Public Library Project-Planning Committee, community leaders, school district representatives, and service area residents representing a variety of age groups and interests. Methods used to assess current and projected library service needs in the neighborhood library service area included site visits, physical assessment of the existing, leased facility, analysis of

demographic data, open community forums, focus groups, meetings with service area groups and organizations, individual interviews and library staff input.

Discussions with Kings Canyon Unified School District staff and administrators, and a history of collaboration between the Fresno County Public Library and district schools, pointed to the following needs for possible joint venture projects that would meet both public school and public library educational goals.

- Students in Orange Cove often do not have access to adequate study spaces and tools or to family members who can help them with their homework. A Homework Center in the new library should be a top priority.
- Students and their families need to have access to computers and training to develop computer skills and a broad understanding of how technology is applied in today's homes, schools and workplaces.
- Collections and services to support family literacy should include early childhood programming, expanded collections in Spanish and in English-language learning resources, parenting collections for teens and adults, and expanded computer access.

These elements in a joint venture project will be central to fulfilling the educational mission of the District and the educational support mission of the Library.

C. Community Input Strategies

The community assessment planners determined that a combination of community input methods would be most successful, including attending established classes and meetings where library planning was an agenda item, collecting patron comment cards, conducting community forums and focus groups, and interviewing key informants. Spanish language translators helped to facilitate community input sessions.

In the spring of 2003, the Library engaged Godbe Research & Analysis to conduct an extensive telephone survey of the entire Fresno County Public Library service area. The Orange Cove Neighborhood Library service area was included in geographic Area 15 of that survey.

As planning for the new Orange Cove facility progressed, two design workshops were held at the neighborhood library to give community residents the opportunity to see how their input was shaping the design of the library, and as a forum for additional project suggestions.

It is noteworthy that community input strategies allowed for strong representation of both library users and non-users. In a meeting with parents of preschool children, only 10 of the 60 attendees had used the library, and in an ESL Citizenship Class, only 2 of 21 participants had used the library.

1. Group Meetings, Class Visits and Focus Groups

In April of 2003, a preliminary meeting was held with service area community leaders to discuss the possibility of pursuing a new library in Orange Cove and to gauge the support of the community for the project. The city officials, teachers and business leaders who attended that meeting were unanimous in expressing their concern about the inadequate size and current service limitations of the existing library, and they enthusiastically supported seeking funding to construct a much needed, modern, and appropriately sized library to better meet the needs of the community. Specifically, they noted the need for expanded space and larger collections to support education and to help children to be successful in school.

Arrangements were made to place the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library Project on the regular agendas of three community meetings/classes to gather planning input. An additional, informal discussion took place during a scheduled computer lab session for young adults at the Victor P. Lopez Community Center.

In addition to attendance at regularly scheduled meetings and classes, two focus groups were held to discuss community needs and how they relate to library service needs—one with child development center staff and another with community seniors.

Total attendance at the meetings was 121, and attendance was representative of the community's demographics.

Summaries of all meetings/class visits and focus groups are included as *Appendix C* of this study.

2. Community Forums

Two open, well-advertised community forums were held at the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library. Both meetings were held in the evening, one on Thursday, June 26, 2003 and the other on Thursday, July 31, 2003. At these forums, library staff and administrators introduced the Orange Cove Library project and explained the planning process. Local residents then discussed community needs as they relate to the library, and provided input regarding collections, services and facilities.

During the design development phase of the project three more public meetings were held at the neighborhood library, to give participants the opportunity to see how their input was shaping the design of the library, and as a forum for additional project suggestions. Additionally, an impromptu afternoon meeting was held in the library between the architect and six children, ages 8-13, to get their input on the developing plans—the children were most interested in having enough computers available.

- At the October 1, 2003 public meeting, the community was updated on the progress of data gathering for the needs assessment and participants had a chance to give input on how the proposed library building should interact with activities along Park Boulevard. Public input pointed to the need to connect the library design to the community by locating windows along the face of the facility to allow library activities and collections to be visible from the main street. It is

hoped that exterior design work will emphasize the bright future of Orange Cove, and that interior design will honor the community's history and cultural pride.

- At the November 5, 2003 public meeting, library staff presented the results of community project participation, including comments from focus groups, public meetings, and interviews with key community informants. The evolving building plan was presented and discussed, allowing participants to see how community comments have shaped the design, including a generous number of public computers, increases in the amount of seating, configuration of a homework center, and the much needed addition of a community meeting room and a conference room.



Paul Halajian, one of the project architects, presented the library floor plan and a 3D model of the building. By placing this scale model on the site plan, participants could see building rooflines and proximity to parking. Community members commented on several elements of the design, asked pertinent questions and offered suggestions for developing the design to reflect both the history and the future of Orange Cove.

- At the November 20th meeting, the project time line was discussed, there was a report on the property acquisition process, and the city's bike path plans were noted. The final preliminary building design was unveiled, and the plan was explained area-by-area. Future expansion for the library was highlighted, noting that the plans provide for an additional 3,300 square feet if needed in the future. All participant comments were positive, and individuals noted their pleasure in being part of this important community process. It was agreed that the plans did, as hoped, reflect Orange Cove's past, present and bright future.

Summaries of all community forums are included as *Appendix A* of this study.

3. Interviews

In addition to group input, key community informants were interviewed. These individuals represented school and government organizations and non-profit agencies and were identified as having a strong interest in library services for the Orange Cove service area. Summaries of all interviews are included as *Appendix B* of this study.

Interviews included the following individuals:

Ms. Mary Media, Learning Director, Citrus Head Start Program Center, Orange Cove. Early childhood education is a concern for the service community, and all children and families served by Citrus Head Start reside in the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library service area.

Father Robert Davis, Parish Priest, San Isadore the Farmer Catholic Church.

Father Davis serves the 900 families of the Parish, which is the largest church in the Orange Cove service area. As part of his community duties as Parish Priest, Father Davis works with teens and children in the community, in the areas of religious education, life skills, moral education and life enrichment.

Mr. James Gordon, Chamber of Commerce President, Renewal Community Manager, Assistant to the City Administrator, City of Orange Cove.

Mr. Gordon holds several key positions in the City of Orange Cove and is a strong leader in long-range planning initiatives and in affecting change.

Mr. Victor P. Lopez, Mayor of Orange Cove, City of Orange Cove.

Mr. Lopez has been Mayor of Orange Cove for 25 years, and he served on the City Council for 5 years before being elected Mayor. He has championed multiple projects to improve education, economic growth and the quality of life in the City.

Mr. Mario Melendrez, SER Jobs for Progress, Interim Project Manager

SER sponsors job related programs for minority populations in rural communities. In Orange Cove, the programs have an educational focus and include youth vocational training, computer technology training and a GED program aimed at farm workers.

Claudia Garcia and Horacio Bravo, Orange Cove Youth Center Coordinators

The Orange Cove Youth Center serves the recreational and educational interests of young people between the ages of 12-18 in the Orange Cove community.

Carol Lopez Doerksen, Coordinator for District School Libraries

Ms. Doerksen provided background information on the Kings Canyon Unified School District library media centers and worked with the Library to understand and plan for the joint venture project in the new Orange Cove Neighborhood Library.

Mr. Frank Martinez, Mr. Roy Rodriguez, Mr. Adolfo Martinez, Ms. Diana Guerra Silva, City Council Members, City of Orange Cove

As community leaders, Council Members were able to provide informed insight into community needs and how the new library can help meet those needs in Orange Cove.

4. Surveys

For planning purposes, in 1998 and again in 2003, Godbe Research & Analysis, a California research firm, was engaged by the Fresno County Public Library to conduct system-wide, English language telephone surveys related to library services. The 2003 survey was conducted between March 21 and April 9, 2003. Based on a sample of registered voters and a random digit dial sample of non-registered residents in Fresno County, one thousand survey respondents were statistically selected. Survey methodology provided input from both library users and non-users. The Orange Cove Neighborhood Library service area was included in geographic Area 15 of that survey. The communities of Parlier and Del Rey were also included in Area 15 survey coverage.

At the onset of the 2003 study, Godbe Research & Analysis and the Fresno County Library identified survey research objectives:

- To assess support among registered voters for a ballot issue to provide for an extension of the current one-eighth cent sales tax which provides for extended library hours, larger library collections, enhanced programs and improved library facilities in Fresno County; and
- To determine knowledge of, and satisfaction with, library programs and services among residents of Fresno County.

Survey results showed that the three library services that registered voters ranked most important were, in order of importance:

- The quality of library staff;
- Programs and services for children; and
- The quality of the library's website.

Among sampled non-voters, library services ranked most important were, in order of importance:

- Free Internet access;
- The quality of library staff; and
- Programs and services for children.

Library services considered important, which also showed high satisfaction among all respondents were:

- Programs and services for children, teen and seniors;
- Literacy programs for children and adults;
- The quality of library staff;
- The quality of collections, seating and study areas; and
- Free Internet access.

Library services considered important, but which showed lower satisfaction levels among respondents were:

- Homework help for students;
- Library hours; and
- Availability of computer classes (free),

The survey determined that 79% of respondents were either somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with both the Fresno County Libraries and their local branch library.

5. Service Area Resident's Comments and Suggestions

Residents of the Orange Cove service area were encouraged to express their needs and concerns about library services through written comments and suggestions. Comment cards, printed in English and Spanish were available at the library and at needs assessment community input sessions. Additionally, in an outreach effort to tap the opinions of other service area library users and non-users, the comment cards were offered at a library exhibit table during the Orange Cove Harvest Festival in the spring of 2003—thirty-five cards were completed. Service area residents also had the option of submitting electronic comments through a link on the library web page, www.fresnolibrary.org.

A summary of patron's comments is included in Appendix A of this study.

6. Library Staff

Staff from the Central Library and Sandra Kuykendall, Library Assistant II at the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library, were consulted regarding the existing and proposed Orange Cove Neighborhood Library. Staff input was gathered at each stage of the project to insure an informed process.

7. School Collaboration Planning

Kings Canyon Unified School District and the Fresno County Public Library share a commitment to education. The education mission of the Library is broad and inclusive while the mission of the School District is specific to student needs.

FRESNO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY MISSION STATEMENT

The Fresno County Public Library provides people with reading, viewing and listening materials for information, enlightenment and pleasure. We reach out to offer the record of humanity's thoughts and interpretations of the world around us.

KINGS CANYON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The success of any enterprise is enhanced when there is a clear statement of purpose and direction. The following is the mission for Kings Canyon Unified School District.

High Student Achievement

- *Data driven decision making*
- *Ensure strong leadership at every school site*
- *Explore pre-school opportunities for students*
- *Maintain literacy as the district focus*
- *Explore ways to develop partnerships with parents*
- *Make sure students have opportunities to be involved in co-curricular programs*

Excellence in Teaching

- *Continue to improve our approaches to recruitment and hiring, induction, mentoring, evaluation and recognition*
- *Work with principals and teachers in the area of leadership, teaching and learning*
- *Work to expand opportunities for teachers and administrators to participate in professional development*
- *Incorporate technology into teaching and learning*

Enhance Leadership and Accountability

- *Establish expectations for performance of individuals in leadership roles*
- *Establish a model to build leadership skills and capacity necessary to increase student achievement*

Maintain Financial Stability

- *Plan for expenditures related to new facilities and growth*
- *Maintain good fiscal practices, i.e., staffing, class size, reserves, attendance policies*

- *Continue to seek alternate funding sources, such as grants*
- *Be involved with collective bargaining*

Strengthen Public Confidence

- *Continue to improve internal and external communications plan*
- *Communicate my expectations to every employee in the district*
- *Establish a forum for dialog and discussion*
- Establish more direct links with parents at every school site

The new Orange Cove Neighborhood Library currently serves students and their families from three public, K-8 schools located in the library's service area, and from one high school, grades 9-12, located in the City of Reedley, which is 9 miles from Orange Cove. Over the next three years, three new schools will be opening their doors in the City of Orange Cove—a new, replacement middle school to serve 675 students, a new elementary school to be located in the previous middle school facility to serve 300 students, and a new high school to serve 900 students. The high school will be a district-wide magnet school, specializing in the sciences and engineering, and will also serve as the basic high school for Orange Cove service area students. All area public schools are part of the Kings Canyon Unified School District, with district offices in Reedley.

There are no private or parochial schools in the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library service area.

All existing and future schools located in the library's service area will be within one mile of the proposed site for the new Orange Cove Neighborhood Library, and three schools will be one-half mile or less—within easy walking distance.

As a quality of life measure, Orange Cove has engaged the services of a landscape architect to design a bike path that will connect key locations around the City. All current and future schools, and the new library site, will be connected to the bike path. Design work for the bike path will be completed in December, 2003, and the City has received a CALTRANS grant to hire an engineer to prepare the plans for a June, 2004 presentation to CALTRANS for bikeways funding.

Public Schools:

McCord Elementary School, Orange Cove
 Sheridan Elementary School, Orange Cove
 Citrus Middle School, Orange Cove
 Reedley High School, Reedley

In June and July of 2003, school district and library representatives met six times to discuss the needs of the Orange Cove community and to explore possibilities for mutually beneficial joint venture projects in the new library. During the meetings, parties representing the Kings Canyon Unified School District and the Fresno County Public Library gained greater understanding of one another's needs and resources. Both the District and the County Library recognized that Orange Cove's K-12 students can be best served through collaborative efforts, and that by working together they can provide broader resources to support student needs.

Members of the Kings Canyon Unified School District and Fresno County Public Library
Joint Planning Committee

- Carol Lopez Doerksen, Coordinator for District School Libraries, Kings Canyon Unified School District
- Jim Gordon, Assistant to the City Administrator and Chamber of Commerce President, Orange Cove
- Juan Garza, Superintendent, Kings Canyon Unified School District
- Cynthia MacDonald, Youth Services Librarian, Fresno County Public Library
- Aline Reed, Librarian Trainee, Fresno County Public Library
- Terry Sterling, Librarian Supervisor of Community Libraries East, Fresno County Public Library
- John Volkman, Reedley High School Library Media Teacher
- Kelly Worman, Young Adult Services Coordinator, Fresno County Public Library

Many students in Orange Cove do not have access to adequate study spaces and tools, or to family members who can help them with their homework. It was agreed that a Homework Center in the new library should be a top priority. The Center should include access to school textbooks and computers, should be stocked with basic school supplies and should include the assistance of qualified homework helpers.

Another important area for collaboration is a technology learning lab where students and families can learn how to use technology effectively. Computers in this lab should include Internet access, productivity software, subscription databases and links to websites that are appropriate and useful to support student needs.

The planned Homework Center and Technology Learning Lab, as components of a public school-library joint-venture project, will focus on meeting the needs of students in grades K-12 and the needs of their parents, who are critically important partners in the educational process. The joint-venture Homework Center and Technology Learning Lab will help to establish a foundation for learning—through the development of study skills and habits of mind during the school years.

The Fresno County Public Library and Kings Canyon Unified School District will further support the joint-venture Homework Center and the Technology Learning Lab through related collaborative services to include coordinated literacy outreach, shared electronics and telecommunications and co-sponsored learning enrichment programs.

Joint-Venture Elements

A detailed, binding agreement will be drafted, that will define the joint-venture between the County of Fresno and Kings Canyon Unified School District. Key elements of that venture, to meet shared educational goals, will include the following projects.

Homework Center

A Homework Center will be established in the new Orange Cove Neighborhood Library to support students and their families by providing access to the space and tools that they need to succeed, to include the following service components:

- Appropriately configured tables and chairs for student after-school needs;
- Access to homework support technology—computer workstations, equipment to support multimedia presentations, wireless technology to support laptop computers;
- Availability of up-to-date core subject textbooks;
- Qualified teacher assistance and trained volunteers;
- Availability of print and electronic materials to support curriculum needs;
- Availability of an online subscription-based service for real-time homework assistance; and
- Training and outreach services to publicize Homework Center services.

Technology Learning Lab

A Technology Learning Lab will be established in the new Orange Cove Neighborhood Library to empower students and their families by improving access to modern technology, and training in the use of hardware and software systems. The Lab will include the following service components:

- Availability of 10, dedicated, Internet-enabled computer workstations, with access to productivity software, subscription databases and appropriate student and family websites;
- An instructor's station and instructional technology to include equipment to support multimedia instruction; and
- Bi-lingual, multi-level computer literacy classes conducted by qualified instructors.

Related Collaborative Services

To help insure that joint-venture service goals are met, Fresno County and Kings Canyon Unified School District will further support the Homework Center and the Technology Learning Lab through related collaborative services to include:

- Literacy Outreach Services;
 - Meeting and conference rooms, equipped with seating, laptop computer capability and multi-media presentation tools to support literacy programs
 - Bi-lingual Literacy materials for children and adults
 - Programming to encourage parent-child shared learning activities
 - Bi-lingual workshops to promote the benefits of reading with children
 - Before and after-school reading intervention programs
 - Recruitment of literacy volunteers
 - Kindergarten outreach class visits
- Shared Electronics and Telecommunications; and
 - Links between School and Library web pages to enhance access to resources purchased by both parties
 - Joint training to familiarize staff with each organizations electronic resources

- School and Community Learning Enrichment.
 - Implementation of a Library Ambassador program to introduce District staff to library-based resources and services
 - Literature based programs for a range of age groups
 - Outreach class visits, booktalks and library service introductions
 - Family literacy programs to increase parent involvement in their children's education
 - Grand parents/grand readers and books program designed to bring seniors and children together in a multigenerational language and literature experience
 - Teen parent outreach program to introduce teen parents to tools/methods that foster reading skills in children

III. Community Analysis

A. Executive Summary

Orange Cove has been a farm town since the railroad came through about 90 years ago. At that time, and for decades to come, the small community was divided along ethnic and socio-economic lines, with Hispanic farm workers living apart from largely White, non-Hispanic landowners and growers.

The City incorporated in 1948 with about 4,000 people, and during the 1950s and 60s Mexican braceros who stayed grew the city. By 1990 the population had grown to 6,570, and between 1990 and 2000 the population expanded by 33%, to 8,767.

In the late 1970s Victor Lopez organized the Latino population and was elected to the City Council. Later he ran for Mayor, and he continues to hold that position. Today the City Council has a Latino-majority, which is representative of the community's demographics, where 87.7% of the population is Hispanic and 9.6% is White, non-Hispanic. According to the 2000 Census, the service area has grown to 8,767 residents, and it continues to grow, with a projected 2020 population of 14,000—an increase of 60% from the current census.

The small city is in the heart of the citrus belt, and historically the economy has relied almost exclusively on agriculture and agriculture support industries. Low wages, a lack of education, few opportunities and the dependence of agriculture on favorable weather, have resulted in an unemployment rate that has long hovered around 30%. Remarkably, Orange Cove has more people living in poverty (44.54%) than any other city in California (*Fresno Council of Governments*).

Economic poverty is invariably associated with demographic characteristics that keep people from realizing their full potential. In the Orange Cove service area, 54% of residents over-age-25 have less than a 9th grade level of formal education, and more than 70% have not received a high school diploma or GED certificate. Statewide, only 11.5% of over-age-25 adults have less than a 9th grade education, and nationwide the percentage drops to 7.5%. In California overall, 11.7% of adults do not have a high school diploma or GED, and nationwide 12.1% of adults have not graduated from high school or received a GED.

Insufficient English language and literacy skills are a limiting factor for many Orange Cove residents. In the home, 73% of the population speaks Spanish, and 49% of residents report speaking English less than very well. Many children in the service area enter school unable to speak English—between 56%-66% of all kindergarten aged students are English Language Learners. Parents with a limited education and poor English language skills struggle to help their children to be successful students.

The Orange Cove Neighborhood Library serves a community where people wrestle with poverty and its associated ills. The median individual income in the service area is only \$7,897, as compared with \$22,711 statewide, and \$21,587 nationwide. Between the two elementary schools in the service area, 98%-99% of children qualify for free or reduced cost meals. Clearly, many or most residents do not have the resources to purchase many books or periodicals, and the purchase of a home computer is far beyond the

means of most area families. The community is an example of the “digital divide,” where people at lower socio-economic levels have less access to technology and so fall farther and farther behind.

The service area population is unusually young, with a median age of only 23.5 years, as compared with a median age of 33.3 years in California overall and 35.3 years nationwide. The vast majority (88%) of people live in families, and 60% of those families have school age children. Housing is crowded, with 4.42 people per household, well above the state average of 2.87 or the national average of 2.59.

Elementary and middle school students attend school in Orange Cove, where the 2002-2003 enrollment was 1,812 at two elementary schools and one middle school. High school students attend school in Reedley, some 9 miles away, where Orange Cove students make up 490 of the 2,154 students enrolled at Reedley High School. Student achievement, as measured by the Academic Performance Index, shows that the elementary schools and the middle school rank in the mid-range of a 10-point scale when they are compared to similar schools, but are ranked much lower against schools statewide.

There are many changes underway in Orange Cove, including the addition of another K-5 elementary school, the construction of a new middle school, and construction of the City’s first-ever high school. All three of these schools will open their doors over the coming three years. Watching the schools going up inspires hope in the community, and community residents are much encouraged by this and other measurable signs of progress.

The City of Orange Cove has adopted a strategy and is implementing a phased plan to improve the lives of its residents by creating a more stable employment base, and a more livable city. A remarkable number of transforming projects have been completed or are underway in the areas of education, business and economics, and the quality of life in Orange Cove. Word is out about big changes that are afoot in the area, and city officials were recently contacted by the San Francisco Academy of Film about the possibility of creating a documentary of what a poverty stricken, Central Valley town is doing to pull itself up by its bootstraps. The Orange Cove community faces daunting obstacles, but residents see improvements and expanding opportunities, and they express growing faith in a positive future for their small city.

Orange Cove is poised for transformation, and a new library will be a critical component in that transformation. During the community needs assessment process, area residents, the Library, the City, community organizations, Fresno County and the Kings Canyon Unified School District all worked together to assemble a complete picture of the service area community. The new Orange Cove Neighborhood Library, the first permanent county-owned library for the community, will be central to the success of the education and quality of life initiatives that have been set in motion, and it will serve as a key support for the area’s business and economic expansion.

B. Service Area

The Orange Cove service area is defined by Fresno County census tract 65, which includes the City of Orange Cove and surrounding rural, unincorporated areas. Kings Canyon Road on the north, Hills Valley Road to the east, Floral Avenue to the south and Crawford Avenue to the west outline the service area. Since the site of the proposed new library is in the downtown of Orange Cove, service area boundaries will remain the same after the new library opens. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the current service area population totals 8,767.

During the decade between 1990 and the 2000 Census, the service area population has increased by 33%. Between 2000 and the year 2020, the population is projected to grow to 14,000, an additional increase of 60%. Population growth in the past decade has placed unmanageable demands on the current library facility, and an additional increase of 60% over the coming twenty years will require markedly enlarged and expanded space and services for the community.

Table 1
Total Population 1990, 2000

Year	Orange Cove Service Area	Fresno County	California	U.S.
1990	6,570	667,490	29,760,021	248,709,873
2000	8,767	799,407	33,871,648	281,421,906

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau 1990, 2000

Insert Service Area Map Here

C. Summary of Community Input

During the community input process, which included four open community forums, five focus groups/organization meetings and eight interviews with key informants, members of the Orange Cove service area community were asked to explore community needs as they relate to the neighborhood library. Language barriers in meetings were addressed through the use of Spanish translators.

Each community group or individual emphasized somewhat different needs and concerns, but patterns of overall community interest and concern emerged.

Perceived Problems regarding the existing Orange Cove Neighborhood Library.

- The Library is too small for the number of people who need to use it
- The library staff do not speak Spanish so it can be difficult to register for a library card, and get help to find information—a family member who speaks English must often go along to help with translation
- There aren't any quiet, separate places to sit, read or study
- There aren't any comfortable or inviting chairs in the library
- There are not enough computers, so people almost always have to wait to use one
- The only restroom is shared by staff and the public and is at the back of the building in a storage area, so the public must ask to use the facility
- When children go to the library after school, there are not enough spaces, computers or staff to help with homework
- The library does not have enough books, videos or CD's
- There are not enough materials in Spanish
- There aren't enough places in the City of Orange Cove that are pleasant, comfortable, attractive places to go—the library needs to be a better, more attractive place to visit
- There isn't room for children's activities or places for community groups to meet or learn together

Service priorities for the new Orange Cove Neighborhood Library

- The new library should be a place where people can come together—a shared social and cultural center
- The building must be safe and secure

- The new library should be someplace beautiful and uplifting
- There should be nice, landscaped outside areas
- The library needs to be bigger
- Expand the collections
 - A-V materials—music and films
 - Spanish language materials
 - Larger reference collections
 - More resources to support school work for elementary, middle school and high school students
 - More career and job information
- Have more computers
 - Internet access
 - Computer classes
- Space and assistance is needed for students after school
 - More seats
 - Helpers
 - More computers
 - Expanded afternoon and evening hours until 7:00-8:00 p.m.
- Have separate and special places
 - Quiet study area
 - A separate children's area
 - A place that teenagers will like to be
 - Someplace peaceful and comfortable to relax and read
 - Make a place for art displays
 - Have a room for programs for children and adults
- Honor and represent the history and cultural heritage of Orange Cove and its residents
 - Enlarge the Spanish collection
 - Have signs in Spanish
 - Space is needed for displays and exhibits
- Hours
 - More evening and weekend hours so that families can come after work
- Staff
 - Bi-lingual staff
 - Staff to help with homework
 - Staff to teach people how to use the computers better
- Programs, meetings and classes
 - Programs for children, storytelling, puppets, etc.
 - Special programs for children, things they don't get to see/do in Orange Cove

- Programs for parents, including teen parents
- Place for meetings where people can get together
- Programs for adults in the community
- ESL programs
- Computer classes

In addition to face-to-face community input, the Fresno County Public Library commissioned a professional, system-wide telephone survey, which was conducted by Godbe Research and Analysis in the spring of 2003. The Orange Cove service area was included in geographic Area 15 of the survey, which also included the communities of Parlier and Del Rey. Top service priorities identified in the survey included expanding homework help services and offering up-to-date computer and Internet technology.

The Orange Cove Neighborhood Library Plan of Service, the Joint Venture Agreement with King's Canyon Unified School District, the Building Program and the Building Design Plans will be focused to address the identified needs and interests of the service community as shown above.

D. Government Agencies and Officials

City of Orange Cove

The City of Orange Cove has adopted a strategy and is implementing a plan to improve the lives of its residents and to create a lovely and functional small city. To this end, significant projects are in planning and/or are underway, with phased development to meet both economic and quality of life needs in the community. At the heart of many of the projects is the need to expand the possibilities for Orange Cove residents through education. The new library will be a central support system for the growing education opportunities in the community.

The City recognizes the importance of a new library to the success of its development and improvement strategies. In September 2003, Mayor Victor Lopez, City Council Member Roy Rodriguez and Rural Renewal Community Manager Jim Gordon, met with library administration to discuss the advantages/disadvantages of two pieces of property being considered for the site of the new library. It was agreed that the site on Park and Railroad Avenues was the better site for the library, because it is larger and is closer to schools and the downtown, and because a city-planned bike path will adjoin the site at a future date. In recognition of the importance of the library to the future of Orange Cove residents, the City has committed to bearing one-half of the costs to purchase the parcel, which is currently owned by Tularie Valley Railroad. Additionally, in order to conform to the Orange Cove *General Plan Update 2003-2025*, zoning on the site will be amended from the current light industrial designation to a central commercial zone.

The following city officials worked with library planners to explore the needs of Orange Cove residents and to meet those needs in a new library facility.

Victor P. Lopez, Mayor of Orange Cove, met with library planners in order to understand the library needs of the community and to secure a site for the new library, to include one-half of the site purchase price being provided by the City.

Orange Cove **City Council Members Diana Guerra Silva, Adolfo Martinez, Frank Martinez and Roy Rodriguez**, worked with library planners on the Orange Cove community needs assessment and assisted in securing a site for the new library, to include one-half of the site purchase price being provided by the City.

Jim Gordon, Chamber of Commerce President, Rural Renewal Community Manager and Assistant to the City Administrator, assumed a leadership role in the library planning process. To inform the community needs assessment process, Mr. Gordon attended numerous community meetings, met with community seniors, provided documentation and met with project consultants.

Bill Little, City Administrator, took an active role in securing a site for the new library, to include one-half of the site purchase price being provided by the City.

County of Fresno

Library staff worked collaboratively with many County Departments on all phases of the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library project including site selection, site acquisition, zoning and environmental planning. The following individuals and County Departments provided services for Orange Cove Library project planning:

Public Works, Richard Brogan, Director
County Counsel, Phillip S. Cronin
County Administrative Office, Bart Bohn, CAO
Fresno County Board of Supervisors, Juan Arambula, Chairman

- Real Property, a department of Public Works, negotiated (with library staff) for site acquisition, requested appraisals, and prepared all documents needed for acquisition.
- Planning, also a division of Public Works, handled CEQA and zoning issues.
- Capital Projects assisted with architect selection, administered contracts for architects, oversaw the work of the architects, and requested services for boundary surveys.
- County Counsel reviewed all contracts, resolutions and agreements for the Library.
- The County Administrative Office provided support through their Capital Projects analyst, library analyst and the County Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).
- County Board of Supervisors provided final approval on site selection, agreements, resolutions, purchases, architect selection, and design, and provided authorization to submit the Library Bond Act Grant application.

Fresno County Public Library

Library administrative staff was centrally involved in the community needs assessment, and oversaw the needs assessment and programming processes. Critical project involvement by library staff included:

- Provision of insight into the Orange Cove service area community and background information;
- Liaison with residents and community leaders in the Orange Cove service area;
- Planning for operational efficiency and projected staffing in the new facility;
- Demographic research;
- Collaboration with city officials to select and acquire property for the new facility;

- Collaboration with school representatives to define the scope and specifics of the joint venture project (the County will be a signatory to that final agreement);
- Facilitation of public meetings and forums; and
- Project planning with county leaders and officials.

Karen Bosch-Cobb, Interim Library Director of the Fresno County Public Library, orchestrated the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library planning process and energetically moved the project forward in order to address recognized service deficiencies. She directed staff resources to support and facilitate the project.

Terry Sterling, Fresno County Librarian Supervisor of Community Libraries—East, coordinated the community input process and served as the Library's project manager. She provided extensive background information and demographic research, made project presentations at Orange Cove City Council Meetings, and assumed a leadership role in defining the nature of the joint-venture project with service area school partners.

Sandra Kuykendall, Library Assistant II of the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library, provided informed insight into the Orange Cove service area community and library usage patterns, participated in the community input process and worked with the planning team to identify current and future service and facility needs, and served as a liaison to local business and community leaders.

Ken Louders, Librarian II, **Billy Menakaya**, Librarian II, **Maria Fernandez**, Library Assistant II, and **Margarita Ruiz**, Library Assistant II, all served as Spanish translators for community input sessions.

Aline Reed, Librarian Trainee of the Fresno County Public Library, supported the needs assessment and programming processes by attending project meetings and community input sessions and compiling session notes, organizing demographic data and coordinating communication.

Kings Canyon Unified School District

The School District has actively participated in the community needs assessment process for the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library, has worked with the Library to identify and prioritize mutually beneficial projects for the joint venture, and will be a signatory to the final joint-venture agreement.

The Fresno County Public Library and the Kings Canyon Unified School District have a history of cooperation that includes educational support for students, their parents and educators.

- Classes from district schools visit Fresno County Public libraries to use library resources and services and to take part in library programs. In fiscal year 2002-2003 there were 28 visits from Orange Cove schools to the neighborhood library. During those visits, 567 children and 146 adults participated in library orientations and were able to listen to stories or undertake research for their school assignments.
- Fresno County Public librarians have provided an active kindergarten outreach program to district schools since 1996.

- The Reedley Branch Librarian serves on the District's Library Advisory Board.
- The Library's Youth Services Coordinator served with the Kings Canyon Coordinator for District School Libraries, on the State Curriculum Committee in 2001-2002.
- The Library's Supervisor of Community Libraries—East, (which includes the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library), serves on a recently convened Kings Canyon Unified School District committee to name the new elementary school in Orange Cove.

School district and library representatives met multiple times during June and July of 2003 to discuss the needs of the Orange Cove community and to explore possibilities for mutually beneficial, joint venture projects in the new library. School representatives recognized the importance of family literacy in the educational process, and the key role that the public library can play in improving family literacy. School representatives noted that in Orange Cove it will be important for the library to have a strong collection of language learning materials, and strong parenting collections for both teens and adults. It is hoped that reading readiness can be improved through library story times and other children's programming such as Grandparents and Books. Comments and suggestions for the joint-venture project were also shared through email and phone conversations between District and Library staff.

Many students in Orange Cove do not have access to adequate study spaces and tools, or to family members who can help them with their homework. District and Library staff agreed that a Homework Center in the new library should be a top priority. The Center will include access to computers and school textbooks, should be stocked with basic school supplies and will include homework help from certified teachers and trained volunteers..

Another important area for collaboration is a Technology Learning Lab where students and families can learn how to use technology effectively, and where they will have access to on-line homework assistance programs and websites. Computers in this lab should provide Internet access, productivity software, subscription databases and links to websites that are appropriate and useful to support student needs.

To enhance cooperation, it was agreed that the School District and the Library should seek to establish an electronic link on their respective web pages, which will allow students to connect to an expanded number of electronic resources. Joint training opportunities for staff from the District and the Library will increase familiarity with the expanded range of electronic resources in both websites.

To promote joint-venture services, outreach visits and information for parents, especially teen parents, will be important components of the joint venture project. The District and the Library will also work together to develop a homework alert system in order to stay abreast of curricula and assignments, will share mandated reading lists, and will collaborate to promote programs. To start meeting community needs now, before the new library building can be constructed, the School District and the Library agreed that the computer lab at Orange Cove's Citrus Middle School can be used temporarily for much needed library computer training.

In addition to joint-venture planning meetings, school district staff were active participants at all of the public meetings and forums held during the community needs assessment process.

Joint-Venture Elements

A detailed, binding agreement will be drafted, that will define the joint-venture between the County of Fresno and Kings Canyon Unified School District. Key elements of that venture, to meet shared educational goals, will include the following projects.

Homework Center

A Homework Center will be established in the new Orange Cove Neighborhood Library to support students and their families by providing access to the space and tools that they need to succeed, to include the following service components:

- Appropriately configured tables and chairs for student after-school needs;
- Access to homework support technology—computer workstations, equipment to support multimedia presentations, wireless technology to support laptop computers;
- Availability of up-to-date core subject textbooks;
- Qualified teacher assistance and trained volunteers;
- Availability of print and electronic materials to support curriculum needs;
- Availability of an online subscription-based service for real-time homework assistance; and
- Training and outreach services to publicize Homework Center services.

Technology Learning Lab

A Technology Learning Lab will be established in the new Orange Cove Neighborhood Library to empower students and their families by improving access to modern technology, and training in the use of hardware and software systems. The Lab will include the following service components:

- Availability of 10, dedicated, Internet-enabled computer workstations, with access to productivity software, subscription databases and appropriate student and family websites;
- An instructor's station and instructional technology to include equipment to support multimedia instruction; and
- Bi-lingual, multi-level computer literacy classes conducted by qualified instructors.

Related Collaborative Services

To help insure that joint-venture service goals are met, Fresno County and Kings Canyon Unified School District will further support the Homework Center and the Technology Learning Lab through related collaborative services to include:

- Literacy Outreach Services;
 - Meeting and conference rooms, equipped with seating, laptop computer capability and multi-media presentation tools to support literacy programs
 - Bi-lingual Literacy materials for children and adults
 - Programming to encourage parent-child shared learning activities
 - Bi-lingual workshops to promote the benefits of reading with children
 - Before and after-school reading intervention programs

- Recruitment of literacy volunteers
- Kindergarten outreach class visits
- Shared Electronics and Telecommunications; and
 - Links between School and Library web pages to enhance access to resources purchased by both parties
 - Joint training to familiarize staff with each organizations electronic resources and services
- School and Community Learning Enrichment.
 - Implementation of a Library Ambassador program to introduce District staff to library-based resources and services
 - Literature based programs for a range of age groups
 - Outreach class visits, book-talks and library service introductions
 - With prior scheduling, school field trips to the library can be arranged to take place before the library's usual open hours
 - Family literacy programs to increase parent involvement in their children's education
 - Grand parents/grand readers and books program designed to bring seniors and children together in a multigenerational language and literature experience
 - Teen parent outreach program to introduce teen parents to tools/methods that foster reading skills in children

Members of the Kings Canyon Unified School District and Fresno County Public Library
Joint Planning Committee

- Carol Lopez Doerksen, Coordinator for District School Libraries, Kings Canyon Unified School District
- Jim Gordon, Assistant to the City Administrator and Chamber of Commerce President, Orange Cove
- Juan Garza, Superintendent, Kings Canyon Unified School District
- Cynthia MacDonald, Youth Services Principal Librarian, Fresno County Public Library
- Aline Reed, Librarian Trainee, Fresno County Public Library
- Terry Sterling, Librarian Supervisor of Community Libraries East, Fresno County Public Library
- John Volkman, Reedley High School Library Media Teacher
- Kelly Worman, Young Adult Services Coordinator, Fresno County Public Library

E. School Agencies

Library Media Center Vision Statement Kings Canyon Unified School District

The vision of the Kings Canyon Unified School District library media centers is to ensure that all students acquire a lifelong interest in reading, develop an understanding and appreciation of literature, and become effective users of information. Library media centers will function as information centers of the schools using a variety of resources which include various technologies. Teachers and library staff will collaborate to provide resources and resource-based learning activities in the library for all students. Students will be provided an environment that encourages reading for pleasure and a climate conducive to learning which will provide the opportunity to develop skills for independent, lifelong learning.

The Kings Canyon Unified School District provides effective school library services in Orange Cove and in, where Orange Cove students attend high school. There are libraries in all Orange Cove public schools and in Reedley High School. School libraries are staffed by either Certified Library Technicians, Library Technicians in a certification program, or by a Certified Library Media Teacher plus Library Technicians at the high school level. Collection strength varies between schools, but both collections and technology have improved over the last years following passage of the California School Library Act of 1998, which provided much needed library funding. All district schools have Internet access in the library.

In most cases elementary and middle school library hours are confined to the school day. Sheridan Elementary School keeps the library open until 4:00 p.m., but is closed on Fridays. At the high school level, hours do extend to 6:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday and until 4:00 p.m. on Fridays. However, these longer after-school hours do not necessarily improve current library service to Orange Cove students, because all 490 high school students are bused or take other transportation to school in Reedley each day. At the end of the school day, Orange Cove students re-board the buses and return home. This places additional demands on the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library, which must meet after-school high school student needs for academic support. When the new Orange Cove High School is completed in 2004, students will be better able to take advantage of their school library as well as their neighborhood library.

As shown in Table 2 below, enrollment in service area schools is growing steadily, and by the time the new Orange Cove Neighborhood Library is completed, Orange Cove will have three new public schools—an additional elementary school projected to serve 300 K-5 students, a new middle school projected to serve 675 students and a new, magnet high school projected to serve 900 students. By 2005, students in five Kings Canyon Unified School District schools, grades K-12, will be served by the library project.

In addition to the public schools, the new Orange Cove Neighborhood Library will serve two Head Start programs. There are no private or parochial schools in Orange Cove.

Current Public Schools Attended by Orange Cove Students:

- McCord Elementary School, Orange Cove
- Sheridan Elementary School, Orange Cove
- Citrus Middle School, Orange Cove
- Reedley High School, Reedley

Table 2
Orange Cove Service Area Schools Enrollment

School	Enrollment 2001-02	Enrollment 2002-03
Elementary Schools		
McCord Elementary	485	510
Sheridan Elementary	703	739
Middle School		
Citrus Middle School	550	563
High School		
Reedley High School	2100	2154

Source: California Dept. of Education

F. Community Organizations

Members of Orange Cove community organizations participated in the needs assessment process as participants in focus groups, organizational and community meetings, and in interviews. Depending on their organizational focus, members of community organizations expressed interest in a variety of services in the new library.

Services and features of interest to Orange Cove Community Organizations included:

- Early learning experiences for young children and their families;
- Separation of children's and adult services;
- Tutoring accommodations;
- Computer access and training;
- Homework assistance;
- Community youth involvement in library services; and
- Space for library and community sponsored programs and meetings.

Orange Cove Neighborhood Library Service Area Organizations:

The Economic Opportunity Commission of Fresno County provides a variety of social service and job training opportunities in Orange Cove.

The Orange Cove American Legion Post is a patriotic, community-service, veteran's organization.

The Orange Cove Area Chamber of Commerce promotes business, civic and economic development in the City and provides tourism information.

The Orange Cove Lions Club is a service organization that sponsors a variety of activities to raise funds for sight and hearing conservation programs.

The Orange Cove Senior Center, currently in temporary quarters while a new facility is being constructed, serves the nutrition and quality of life needs of community seniors.

The Orange Cove Women's Club is a service organization that sponsors scholarships and community projects.

The Orange Cove Youth Center, Inc. is a recreational and health education organization that serves the needs and interests of youth aged 12-18 years.

SER-Jobs for Progress provides vocational and educational programs and a computer laboratory for the residents of Orange Cove.

Target 8 Committee, Inc. is an oversight and planning group for childcare facilities in Orange Cove.

G. Demographic Profile

1. Population – Current and Trends

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 8,767 people reside in the service area of the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library. This is a 33% increase over the 1990 service area population of 6,570. By 2020, the population is projected to reach 14,000, which will equate to a 60% increase in population over the coming years.

Rapid growth over the last ten years, which is projected to continue and to escalate in the future, will increase demand for library services.

Table 3
Total Population:
Orange Cove Neighborhood Library Service Area

Year	Orange Cove Neighborhood Library Service Area
2000	8,767
2020*	14,000
% of change 2000-2020	60%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

*FCPL calculation based on area data

2. Age Breakdown

The Orange Cove service area has an exceptionally young population, with a median age of only 23.5 years, which is markedly lower than the Fresno Metropolitan Service Area (30.2), Fresno County (29.9), the state (33.3) or the nation (35.3).

Just under 44% of all service area residents are 19 years of age or younger, which is a 14% higher rate of school-age residents than in California as a whole, and an 8% higher rate of school-age residents than in Fresno County overall.

The next largest age group in the service area, 2,465 people or 28.1% of the total population, is between the ages of 25-44, which is similar to this age group's distribution in Fresno County overall, at 28.5%.

Elderly residents of the service area, aged 65 years and older, make up only 5.6% of the population, which is a notably small percentage as compared to the county as a whole (9.9%), the state (10.7%) or the nation (12.4%).

Age distribution in the service area has implications for library services, suggesting that service to young children, students and families should be a priority.

Table 4
Population by Age: 2000

Age Group	Orange Cove Service Area	Fresno MSA	Fresno County	California	U.S.
Total Population	8,767	922,516	799,407	33,871,648	281,421,906
Under 5 years	10.7%	8.4%	8.5%	7.3%	6.8%
5 to 9 years	12.4%	9.2%	9.3%	8%	7.3%
10 to 14 years	10.2%	8.9%	9%	7.6%	7.3%
15 to 19 years	10.3%	8.7%	8.7%	7.2%	7.2%
20 to 24 years	9.1%	7.5%	7.6%	7%	6.7%
25 to 34 years	15.9%	13.9%	14%	15.4%	14.2%
35 to 44 years	12.2%	14.6%	14.5%	16.2%	16%
45 to 54 years	8.4%	11.7%	11.5%	12.8%	13.4%
55 to 59 years	2.6%	3.9%	3.9%	4.3%	4.8%
60 to 64 years	2.5%	3.1%	3.1%	3.4%	3.8%
65 to 74 years	3.4%	5.3%	5.2%	5.6%	6.5%
75 to 84 years	1.7%	3.6%	3.5%	3.8%	4.4%
85 years and older	0.5%	1.2%	1.2%	1.3%	1.5%
Median age (years)	23.5	30.2	29.9	33.3	35.3
Percentage 19 years and younger	43.7%	35.2%	35.5%	30.1%	28.6%
Percentage 20 years and over	56.3%	64.8%	64.5%	69.8%	71.3%
Percentage 65 years and over	5.6%	10.1%	9.9%	10.7%	12.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000

3. Students, Schools and API Scores

In a community like Orange Cove, where just under 44% of the population is of school age or younger, student data is key to understanding the service area, and the role of library services in the community.

The Kings Canyon Unified School District operates two elementary schools and one middle school in the service area with a total 2002/03 enrollment of 1,812 students. Orange Cove High School students attend a High School, which is outside of the service area. Reedley high School had a 2002/03 enrollment of 2,154 students—490 of those students were from the Orange Cove service area.

Currently, at the end of the school day, high school students who live in Orange Cove board buses and return home, so they are not able to take advantage of the Reedley High School Library beyond the school day. When the new Orange Cove High School is completed, students will be better able to take advantage of their school library as well as their neighborhood library.

A new middle school, to house 675 students, is currently under construction in Orange Cove, with a projected completion date of fall 2004. When the new middle school is completed, the old middle school building will be retrofitted to serve as an additional K-5 elementary school for the growing population of Orange Cove students. Ground is being broken in November of 2003 on the City's first-ever high school, which will serve 900 students. The completion date for the high school is fall of 2005. The high school will be a magnet school, specializing in engineering and science, so it will provide district-wide service to students who are strong in the sciences and expect to pursue a career in science or engineering. It will also serve as the basic high school for Orange Cove service area students.

There are no private or parochial schools in the Orange Cove service area.

Ethnically, the service area population is strongly Hispanic. Not surprisingly, this pattern holds true in the student population as well.

At the high school level, where 23% of students are from the Orange Cove service area, 71.4% of students are Hispanic and 23.8% are White, non-Hispanic. All other racial/ethnic groups total only 4.8% of Reedley High School's enrollment.

The service area middle school population is 94.1% Hispanic and 4.6% White, non-Hispanic, with other racial/ethnic groups totaling 1.3% of students.

In the elementary school population 96.8% of students are Hispanic, 1.7% are White, non-Hispanic and 1.5% are from other racial/ethnic groups.

Table 5
Orange Cove Service Area Schools Enrollment by Ethnicity 2002-03

School	McCord Elem.	Sheridan Elem.	Citrus Middle	Reedley High	Total Enrollment
American Indian	.2%	.4%	.4%	1%	.7%
	1	3	2	21	27
Asian		.4%	.7%	1.9%	1.2%
	0	3	4	40	47
Pacific Islander				.1%	.05%
	0	0	0	2	2
Filipino		.5%	.2%	1.3%	.8%
	0	4	1	27	32
Hispanic	96.9%	96.8%	94.1%	71.4%	82.7%
	494	715	530	1,539	3,278
African American	1.2%	.3%		.6%	.5%
	6	2	0	13	21
White	1.8%	1.6%	4.6%	23.8%	14.1%
	9	12	26	512	559
Multiple/No response					
	0	0	0	0	0
Total %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Total Enrollment	510	739	563	2154	3,966

Source: California Department of Education

For accountability purposes California uses the Academic Performance Index (API) to measure student achievement in each school.

Each annual API reporting cycle includes two reports: a base report, which appears after the first of the calendar year, and a growth report, which appears during the first semester of the fall term.

The following charts show the 2002-2003 API Growth Report and the 2002 API Base Report (Note: McCord Elementary School certified a testing irregularity with the California Department of Education, so no 2002 API base report is available for McCord).

At Sheridan Elementary School and at Citrus Middle School, 2002 Academic Performance Index base scores rose from the previous year, but the base score fell for Reedley High School. Base scores are measured against statewide performance and against the performance of demographically similar schools to derive school rankings. Rankings are based on a ten-point scale, with 1 being the lowest rank and 10 the highest. Sheridan Elementary School was ranked at level 1 statewide, but at level 4 against similar schools. Citrus Middle School was ranked at level 1 statewide, but at level 6 against similar schools. Reedley High School was ranked at level 2 both statewide and against similar schools.

When interpreting API ranking, it is useful to consider the educational challenges of students and teachers in specific schools. In the two elementary schools serving young students in the Orange Cove service area, 55.6% of Sheridan Elementary

students, and 66.1% of McCord Elementary students are English Language Learners. 98.2% of Sheridan students and 99% of McCord students are eligible to receive free or reduced cost meals. As the Table 9 below illustrates, the number of economically poor Orange Cove children who enter school with limited English language skills is much higher than is seen district-wide, county-wide or in California as a whole.

The 2002-2003 API Growth Report showed that all of the reported schools attended by Orange Cove service area students showed comparable improvement in their API scores, and that two schools, Sheridan Elementary and Citrus Middle School, met their growth targets and are eligible for awards. In fact, improvement at the elementary and middle school level was notable, adding to the measurable indicators that point to an improving quality of life in the Orange Cove library service area.

(As previously noted, due to a certified testing irregularity, no scores are available for McCord Elementary School so no growth or target information is available.)

Table 6
API Growth Report: 2002—2003

	STAR 2003	2003	2002	2002- 2003	2002- 2003	Met Growth Target			
							Comparable	Both	
School Type for 2001 API (Base)	Percent Tested	API (Growth)	API (Base)	Growth Target	Growth	School- wide	Improve- ment (CI)	School- wide and CI	Awards Eligible
Elementary Schools									
McCord Elementary	99	561	C						
Sheridan Elementary	100	599	553	12	46	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Middle Schools									
Citrus Middle	100	552	517	14	35	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
High Schools									
Reedley High	99	556	549	13	7	No	Yes	No	No

Source: California Department of Education

Awards Notes - The "Awards Eligible" column requires at least five points school-wide growth and at least four points growth for each numerically significant subgroup.

"C" - means the school did not have a valid 2002 API Base and will not have any Growth or target information.

Table 7
API Base Report: 2002

	Number of Students Included in the 2002 API	2002 API (Base)	Ranks			Targets	
			2002 State-wide Rank	2002 Similar Schools Rank		2002-2003 Growth Target	2003 API Target
District-wide	5,730	587					
Elementary Schools							
McCord Elementary	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A
Sheridan Elementary	451	553	1	4		12	565
Middle Schools							
Citrus Middle	504	517	1	6		14	531
High Schools							
Reedley High	1435	549	2	2		13	562

Source: California Department of Education

Table 8
Characteristics of Orange Cove Elementary School Students

School	Total Enrollment	English Learners	Free & Reduced Price Meals	CalWORKs (formerly AFDC)
Sheridan Elementary	739	411	726	172
		55.6 %	98.2%	23.3%
McCord Elementary	510	337	505	104
		66.1 %	99.0%	20.4%
District Total	8,839	3,446	6,761	1,070
		39.0 %	76.5%	12.1%
County Total	186,863	51,874	120,025	35,010
		27.6 %	64.2%	18.7%
California Total	6,178,340	1,599,542	3,006,877	622,845
		25.6%	48.7%	10.1%

Source: California Dept. of Education

An article in *The Fresno Bee* on February 4, 2003, sheds additional light on educational challenges in the San Joaquin Valley—"Valley Students Fail to Apply for Grants," noted that "As college costs rise, almost three-fourths of students in the San Joaquin Valley who qualify for grants to help pay for expenses fail to apply for the money. A study conducted by the James Irvine Foundation, sponsored by the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium, found that Valley students from grade school up are not as well-prepared for college, do not apply at a high rate to enter college and don't receive their proportional share of college degrees as compared with other regions of the state. Valley students score lower on college entrance exams and high school exit exams than students in the rest of California. Valley students complete high school at a slightly lower rate and complete the more demanding courses required for entrance into UC and CSU systems at a significantly lower rate. Those who do graduate from college do not

reflect the ethnic composition of the Valley's population of people ages 18 to 30. Whites are over represented; Hispanics under represented. A higher percentage of children grow up in families in which English is not the dominant language. Children grow up in families where college is not an expectation, so they receive less encouragement. "The region lags in the state in preparation of the work force which in turn holds down the Valley's economy," said John Welty, president of California State University, Fresno."

4. Educational Attainment and Adult Literacy Rate

The level of educational achievement of over-age-25 Orange Cove service area residents is startling—54% of adult residents have less than a 9th grade education and more than 70% of residents do not hold a high school diploma or GED certificate. Rates for post high school educational attainment are correspondingly low.

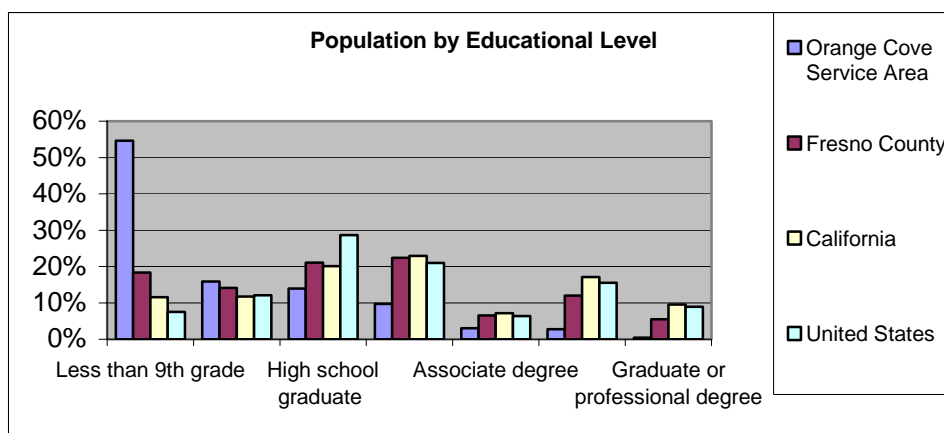
By comparison, in California overall, only 11.5% of the population has less than a 9th grade education, and only 23.2% do not hold a high school diploma or the equivalent.

There is tremendous need in the service area for adult education, and for opportunities to develop language and computing skills. Further, adult education levels suggest that the ability of many parents to help their children with schoolwork is limited, supporting the importance of a Homework Center and Technology Learning Lab in the new library.

Table 9
Orange Cove Population by Education Level

Educational Attainment (Age 25 and over)	Orange Cove Service Area	Fresno County	California	United States
Less than 9 th grade	54.6%	18.3%	11.5%	7.5%
9 th to 12th grade, no diploma	15.9%	14.1%	11.7%	12.1%
High school graduate	13.9%	21.1%	20.1%	28.6%
Some college, no degree	9.7%	22.4%	22.9%	21%
Associate degree	3.0%	6.5%	7.1%	6.3%
Bachelor's degree	2.7%	12%	17.1%	15.5%
Graduate or professional degree	.4%	5.5%	9.5%	8.9%

Source: US Census Bureau 2000



Literacy—The most current official information regarding literacy in California and the U.S. is found in a 1996 study from Portland State University, Portland Oregon. This study, commissioned by the National Institute for Literacy, produced “Synthetic Estimates of Adult Literacy” based on the 1993 Adult Literacy Survey and 1990 census data. While the study includes estimates for most towns and cities in California, Orange Cove is not included, so the chart below shows county, state and national data.

The Orange Cove Neighborhood Library service area has a far lower level of educational attainment than does Fresno County as a whole, and the service area is home to many residents who are immigrants to the U.S. and are not proficient in English. It is reasonable to believe then, that the actual literacy rate for the service area is significantly lower than that of Fresno County. This suggests the importance of literacy collections and services, tutoring space and a Technology Learning Lab in the new library. It also points to the importance of a Homework Center where students can receive assistance that their parents may not be able to provide.

The National Institute for Literacy uses a 5-level scale to measure literacy, with level 1 representing the lowest level of literacy and level 5 the highest. As per the chart below, an estimated 29% of adults living in Fresno County are at the lowest level of literacy. In California as a whole, an estimated 24% of adults are at level 1, the lowest level of literacy, and in the U.S. 23% of adults are at level 1.

Table 10
Adult Literacy Estimates

Location	Population Age 16+	Percent at Level 1	Percent at Level 1 or 2
Fresno County	477,691	29%	50%
California	22,786,281	24%	46%
United States	191,000,000	23%	50%

Source: Synthetic Estimates of Adult Literacy Proficiency, www.casas.org/lit/litcode

Note: Literacy rates are not available for census tracts or the City of Orange Cove.

5. Ethnic Breakdown

At 87.7%, Hispanics of any race make up the majority population group of the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library service area. White, non-Hispanic residents equate to 9.6% of the population. The remaining 3% of the population is sparsely distributed between all other racial/ethnic census categories.

Also of interest in considering service area ethnicity and how it impacts library planning, is an examination of English language proficiency and languages spoken in the home. Spanish and English are the two languages that are statistically significant in the service area population. In the Orange Cove service area, 73% of residents speak Spanish in their homes, and 49.2% of the population aged 5 and over report that they speak English less than very well. In Fresno County as a whole, 31.5% of residents speak Spanish in the home and 20.7% of the county population reports that they speak English less than very well. Statewide, 26% of the population speaks Spanish in the home and 20% report speaking English less than very well.

Library services to the Orange Cove community should include an ample collection of Spanish language materials (in all formats), though literacy in Spanish or English is an issue for many in the community. Most literate adults in the community read Spanish better than English. However, both children and parents who participated in the community needs assessment, spoke to the fact that while school-aged children speak both Spanish and English, they read and write in English. Consequently, library collections for this statistically young community will need to meet both the Spanish and English reading needs of adults and the largely English language reading needs of younger readers and upcoming generations.

Table 11
Population by Race and Ethnicity – Orange Cove Service Area: 2000

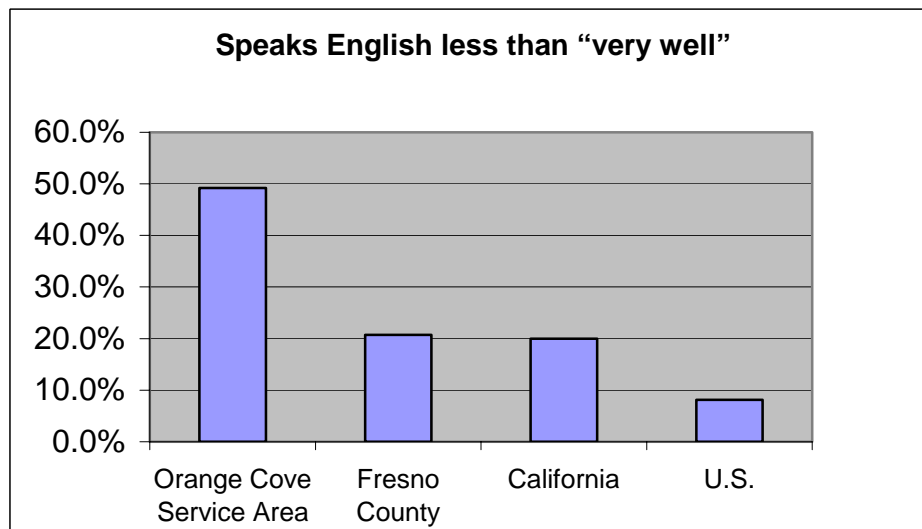
Ethnicity	Orange Cove Service Area	Fresno County	California	U.S.
Total Population	8,767	799,407	33,871,648	281,421,906
Hispanic (of any race)	7,693	351,636	10,966,556	35,305,818
	87.7%	44.0%	32.4%	12.5%
White, non-Hispanic	842	317,522	15,816,790	194,552,774
	9.6%	39.7%	46.7%	69.1%
Black or African American	26	42,337	2,263,882	34,658,190
	.3%	5.3%	6.7%	12.3%
Am Indian & Alaska Native	190	12,790	333,346	2,475,956
	2.2%	1.6%	1.0%	0.9%
Asian Indian	9	7,963	314,819	1,678,765
	.1%	1.0%	0.9%	0.6%
Chinese	20	4,894	980,642	2,432,585
	.2%	.6%	2.9%	0.9%
Filipino	79	5,629	918,678	1,850,314
	.9%	.7%	2.7%	0.7%
Japanese	29	5,721	288,854	796,700
	.3%	.7%	0.9%	0.3%
Korean	0	1,326	345,882	1,076,872
		.2%	1.0%	0.4%
Vietnamese	0	2,471	447,032	1,122,528
		.3%	1.3%	0.4%
Other Asian	3	36,358	401,606	1,285,234
	0%	4.5%	1.2%	0.5%
Native Hawaiian & other Pacific Islander	0	1,000	116,961	398,835
		.1%	0.3%	0.1%
Some other race	4,949	207,061	5,682,241	15,359,073
	56.5%	25.9%	16.8%	5.5%
Two or more races	290	37,812	1,607,646	6,826,228
	3.3%	4.7%	4.7%	2.4%

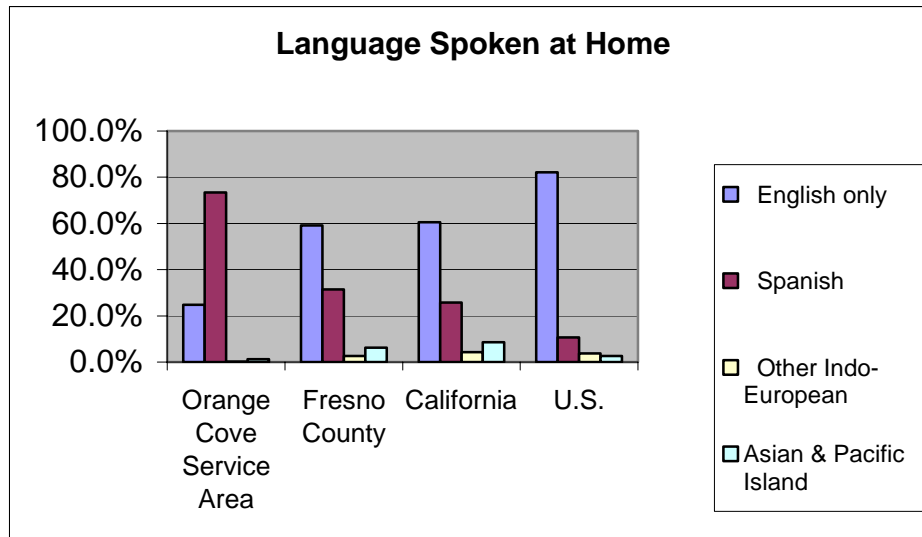
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000

Table 12
English Proficiency and Language Spoken at Home: 2000
Population 5 years and Older

	Orange Cove Service Area	Fresno County	California	U.S.
English Proficiency				
Speaks English less than "very well"	3858 49.2%	151,671 20.7%	6,277,779 20.0%	21,320,407 8.1%
Language Spoken at Home				
English only	1,948 24.8%	433,491 59.2%	19,014,873 60.5%	215,423,557 82.1%
Spanish	5,760 73.4%	230,401 31.5%	8,105,505 25.8%	28,101,052 10.7%
Other Indo-European	19 .2%	19,551 2.7%	1,335,332 4.3%	10,017,989 3.8%
Asian & Pacific Island	100 1.3%	45,275 6.2%	2,709,179 8.6%	6,960,065 2.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000





6. Household Characteristics

Anecdotally, members of the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library service community commented repeatedly on the fact that many homes are crowded. Census statistics confirm this impression. The average household size in the service area is 4.42 people, exceeding the average for Fresno County overall (3.09 pph), California as a whole (2.87 pph), and the nation (2.59 pph).

Library planning implications of this data include the need to plan carefully for how students and adults who live in crowded conditions are likely to use the library as a reading and study space.

Table 13
Average Number of People per Household: 2000

Orange Cove Service Area	4.42
Fresno City	2.99
Fresno MSA	3.10
Fresno County	3.09
California	2.87
United States	2.59

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Table 14
Households: 2000

	Orange Cove Service Area	Fresno County	California	U.S.
Total # of hhs	1,983	252,940	11,502,870	105,480,101
	100%	100%	100%	100%
Total # of people in hhs	8,762	781,740	33,051,894	273,643,273
	99.9%	97.8%	97.6%	97.2%
Total # of family hhs	1,746	186,736	7,920,049	71,787,347
	88.0%	73.8%	68.9%	68.1%
Total # of family hhs w/children under 18	1,195	104,234	4,117,036	34,588,368
	60.3%	41.2%	35.8%	32.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

88% of households in the Orange Cove service area are made up of people living in families. This figure is well over the average for Fresno County, for California, or for the U.S. as a whole. Further, 60.3% of those families are raising children aged 18 or younger. This figure is strikingly higher than Fresno County (41.2%), California (35.8%) or the nation (32.8%).

Household characteristics in the service area have implications for library services, suggesting that service to children, students and families should be a priority.

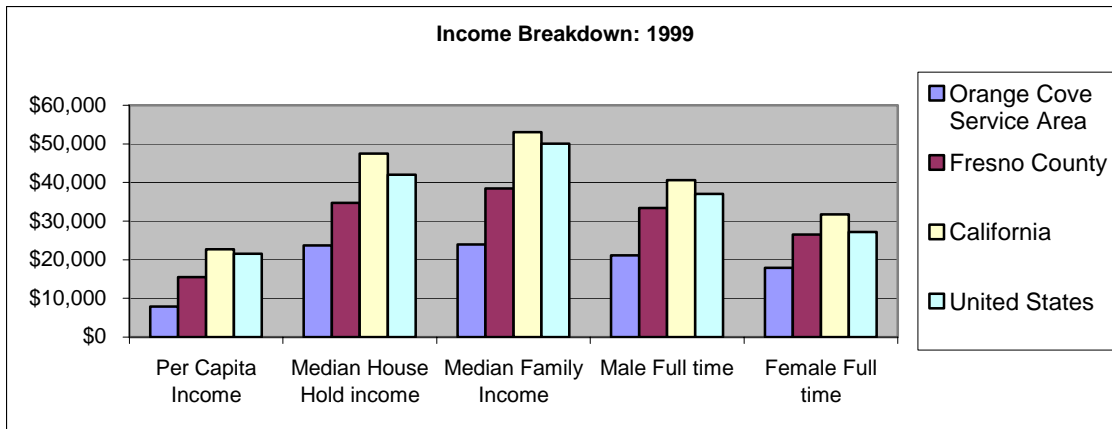
7. Income Levels and Poverty Rate

In 1999, according to the U.S. Census, per capita income in the Orange Cove service area was only \$7,897—approximately half the income level in Fresno County overall, and markedly lower than the California average of \$22,711.

Table 15
Income Breakdown: 1999

Income Parameter	Orange Cove Service Area	Fresno County	California	United States
Per Capita Income	\$7,897	\$15,495	\$22,711	\$21,587
Median Household income	\$23,665	\$34,725	\$47,493	\$41,994
Median Family Income	\$23,917	\$38,455	\$53,025	\$50,046
Male Full time	\$21,143	\$33,375	\$40,627	\$37,057
Female Full time	\$17,902	\$26,501	\$31,722	\$27,194

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000



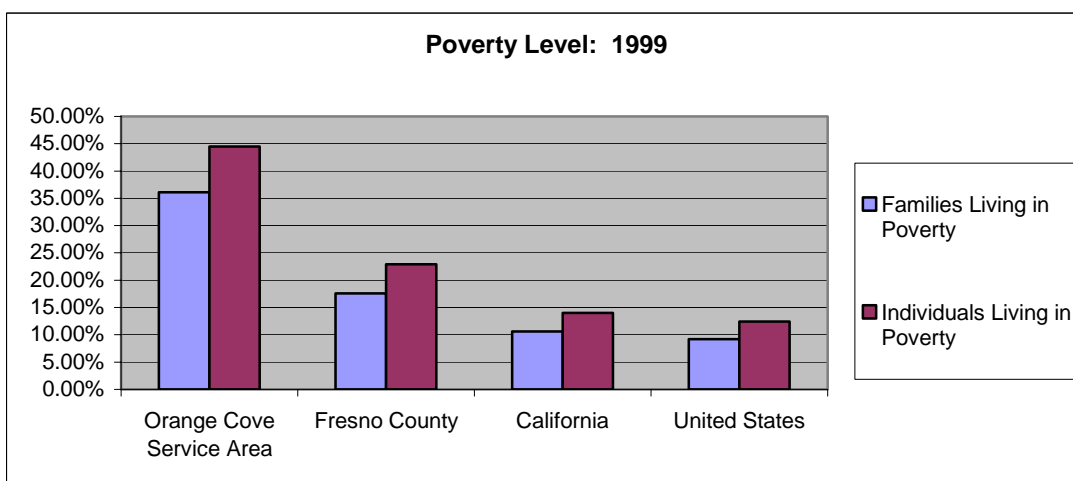
Remarkably, the percentage of individuals living in poverty in Orange Cove is the highest among all 474 cities in California. The percentage of individuals living in poverty in Fresno County, is the second highest in California's 58 counties.

Clearly, many or most residents do not have the resources to purchase many books or periodicals, and the purchase of a home computer is far beyond the means of most area families.

Table 16
Poverty Level: 1999

Location	Families Living in Poverty	%	Individuals Living in Poverty	%
Orange Cove Service Area	635	36.1%	3659	44.5%
Fresno County	33,175	17.6%	179,085	22.9%
California	845,991	10.6%	4,706,130	14.0%
United States	6,620,945	9.2%	33,899,812	12.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000



8. Employment and Occupations

Most service area residents are employed directly or indirectly in agriculture—fieldwork, packinghouses, wholesale trade, trucking, warehousing and service industries associated with agriculture. The other statistically significant area of employment is in education, health and social services, accounting for almost 15% of the service area workforce.

Due to the seasonal and unpredictable nature of agricultural work, and a lack of education and economic opportunities, unemployment in the Orange Cove service area ranges between 20%-30%. The level of unemployment in the service area is more than twice as high as in the County overall (14.2%), and many times higher than is seen statewide (4.9%) or nationally (4.0%).

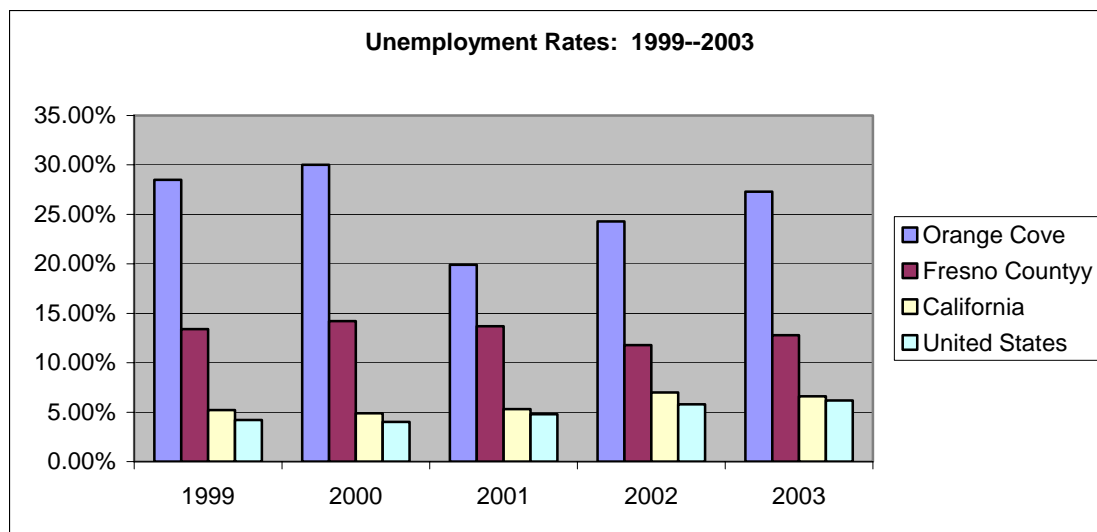
The City of Orange Cove has adopted a strategy and is implementing a phased plan to improve the lives of its residents by creating a more stable employment base, and a more livable city. A remarkable number of transforming projects are underway in the areas of business and economics, education, and the quality of life in Orange Cove.

A new library will be a central component in the City's transformation, directly connected to education and quality of life initiatives and supporting the expansion of business and economic opportunities.

Table 17
Unemployment Rates 1999—2003

Location	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Orange Cove	28.50%	30.00%	19.90%	24.29%	27.3%
Fresno County	13.40%	14.20%	13.70%	11.80%	12.80%
California	5.20%	4.90%	5.30%	7.00%	6.60%
United States	4.20%	4.00%	4.80%	5.80%	6.20%

Source: California Employment Development Department.
Labor Market Information 1999-2003



Business and Economic Initiatives

- The City negotiated an increase in its surface water allocation from 1,400 to 3,400 acre-feet a year, through the middle of the 21st Century.
- Orange Cove obtained grants and loans to triple the capacity of its water and wastewater systems and to provide state-of-the-art operating systems.
- Orange Cove obtained a Federal Highway Administration designation as one of 12 corridor study communities in the U.S., with a study recommendation that the City be included in funding for a widening of the arterial to better connect the City to the Highway 99 corridor.
- The City was one of 12 rural communities and Native American reservations in the U.S. to obtain Renewal Community designation, leading to the reopening, expansion and modernization of three packing houses that will provide more than 1,000 jobs and will stabilize the primary industry of the area. Approximately 20% of California's oranges will be packed and shipped from Orange Cove.
- The City obtained HUB zone status, affording local businesses the opportunity to obtain federal contracts on a negotiated rather than a bid basis, and on contracts that they choose to bid, the City will receive preferential treatment.
- The City is partnering with a private developer who has purchased land for a regional shopping center to include a major grocery store and smaller shops and to house an entertainment center.
- The City completed a revamping of its main commercial street, with median planting of trees and shrubs and the addition of attractive high intensity street lighting.
- A program is underway to upgrade the facades of businesses along the City's main commercial street, with the City and business owners splitting the costs to reface the buildings and create an integrated commercial district. At no cost, the City is providing an architect and a color design consultant to help design the façade treatments.
- To develop job diversification, the City has obtained planning grants for a business park development and intends to proceed over the next three years toward having land, infrastructure and developable pads available to new businesses.

Education Initiatives

- The City developed a model pre-school program that teaches English language and computer skills to 200 pre-schoolers at the Julia A. Lopez Child Development Center.
- With a 90% majority, residents passed a bond issue for the City's first-ever high school, with ground breaking planned for November of 2003.

- A new middle school is under construction, with a projected completion date of September of 2004.
- The Victor P. Lopez Community Center partnered with SER-Jobs for Progress to open a computer laboratory for the residents of Orange Cove.
- Beginning in October of 2003, Kings College, a private university owned by the International Group, Inc., will be offering classes in rented space in Orange Cove. The college is planning construction of an Orange Cove campus in 2004. Kings College will focus on career education for teachers and school administrators, offering both B.S. and M.A. degrees.
- Orange Cove organized a pre-apprenticeship training program in the construction trades operated by Carpenter's Union No. 701 and supported with funds from the Fresno Area Workforce Investment Corporation.

Quality of Life Initiatives

- The City is building a tournament quality championship skateboard and BMX park as part of the new Senator Diane Feinstein Park, located near the planned new high school.
- A renovation of Eaton Park in the center of town includes a children's play area and a new Senior Citizen Center, currently under construction.
- The City and Sierra Kings Hospital District are planning for an expansion of hospital facilities in Orange Cove.
- Because the guidelines of Renewal Community tax benefits require that workers live in town, there is great pressure on the existing housing stock. To meet this need, the City is constructing affordable, single and multi-family housing at the rate of 60 units per year of single family housing and 60 units per year of multi-family housing.
- Orange Cove has engaged the services of a landscape architect to design a bike path that will connect key locations around the City. All current and future schools, and the new library site, will be connected to the bike path. Design work will be completed in December, 2003, and the City has received a CALTRANS grant to hire an engineer to prepare the plans for a June, 2004 presentation to CALTRANS for bikeways funding.

Table 18
Workforce by Industry: 2000

Industry	Orange Cove Service Area	Fresno County	California	United States
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	37.5%	8.4%	1.9%	1.9%
Construction	2.6%	5.7%	6.2%	6.8%
Manufacturing	6.3%	8.3%	13.1%	14.1%
Wholesale Trade	13.6%	5%	4.1%	3.6%
Retail Trade	5.4%	11.2%	11.2%	11.7%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	1.9%	4.5%	4.7%	5.2%
Information	0%	2.1%	3.9%	3.1%
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	2.7%	5.5%	6.9%	6.9%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	5.7%	7.3%	11.6%	9.3%
Educational, health and social services	14.8%	22.8%	18.5%	19.9%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	4.0%	7.2%	8.2%	7.9%
Other services (except public administration)	2.6%	5.1%	5.2%	4.9%
Public Administration	3.0%	6.8%	4.5%	4.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000

9. Housing Property Values

Though still markedly lower than property values elsewhere in Fresno County, the median value of property in the Orange Cove service area has increased by 50% between 1990 and 2000, which is twice the rate of increase seen countywide. This is an interesting figure in light of the many progressive initiatives noted in section 8 above.

Not quite half (47.3%) of housing in the service area is owner occupied, as compared to 56.5% in Fresno County overall, 56.9% in California, and 66.2% in the nation. The lower rate of home ownership is not surprising in light of service area poverty.

Table 19
Median Property Values: 1990 & 2000

Location	1990	2000
Orange Cove Service Area	\$ 53,800	\$ 81,100
Fresno County	\$ 83,600	\$104,900
California	\$195,500	\$211,500
U. S.	\$ 79,100	\$119,600

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 1990, 2000

Table 20
Occupied Housing Units by Type Occupant: 2000

	Orange Cove Service Area	Fresno County	California	U.S.
Total occupied housing units	1,983	252,940	11,502,870	105,480,101
	100%	100%	100%	100%
Owner-occupied housing units	937	142,795	6,546,334	69,815,753
	47.3%	56.5%	56.9%	66.2%
Renter-occupied housing units	1,046	110,145	4,956,536	35,664,348
	52.7%	43.5%	43.1%	33.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

H. Analysis and Discussion of Community Characteristics

The Orange Cove Neighborhood Library serves a community that is poised for transformation. There is desperate poverty in the service area, but there is also great hope, and the community spirit is strong.

Almost 88% of the service area population is Hispanic, with Spanish being the predominant language. Adults in the community are held back by inadequate English language skills and a startlingly low educational level—70.5% of residents aged 25 and older have less than a high school education. The majority of children, between 56%-66%, enter public school as English language learners. Homes are overcrowded and the average income for individuals is less than \$8,000 a year, with most people earning their living in the agricultural industry. Poverty makes home computers largely unattainable, resulting in the community being an example of the “digital divide,” where people at lower socio-economic levels have less access to technology and so fall further and further behind. A lack of education, poor English language skills and few opportunities, result in more people living in poverty in Orange Cove than in any other city in California (*Fresno Council of Governments*).

The Orange Cove community faces daunting obstacles, but an impressive number of initiatives are underway to meet the challenges. The community has passed bond issues for schools that are now under construction. Multiple educational programs for

adults and children are either in-place or in planning. A multi-faceted approach to business and economic development is being applied and is making good use of grant opportunities to help the community meet its economic goals. Quality of life projects are beautifying the city, expanding recreational opportunities and promoting improved health care for residents. Affordable housing is under construction and is supported by a vastly improved residential infrastructure.

Currently the service area community stands at 8,767 residents, and by the year 2020, it is expected to grow by 60% to 14,000. It is an unusually young community, with 43.7% of residents being 19 years of age or younger—a significantly larger proportion than is found in Fresno County as a whole, or in California or the nation. Most people in the service area live in families, and more than 60% of families have school-age children living at home.

Traditionally, the community has been a “tough farm worker town“, but it is taking measurable, concrete steps to transform itself into a lovely small city with a strong economy and growing opportunities for the people who live there. At this time, however, the community is clearly less prosperous than other cities in Fresno County or in California.

There are 1,812 students in grades K-8 attending public schools in the service area. Another 490 high school students are currently bused out of the area to attend school at Reedley High School, where total enrollment is 2,154. School performance at the elementary and middle school level, as measured by the Academic Performance Index, is low when ranked statewide, but is at mid-level when ranked against similar schools. The high school attended by service area students is ranked at a level 2 (on a 10-point scale) both statewide and against similar schools.

There are many agents of change at work in the Orange Cove service area, and the proposed new library will be a key component of transformation in the community. Most residents do not have the resources to purchase many books or periodicals and cannot afford a home computer. Many lack the space and privacy at home to read or study. The new Orange Cove Neighborhood Library, located in the heart of the small city, will meet many of these needs and will serve as a community anchor. The educational role of the library in the community will open up new vistas and will be central to the ability of residents to lead fulfilling lives.

IV. Library Service Needs

A. Executive Summary

In the words of Father Robert Davis of San Isadore the Farmer Catholic Church—"The most pressing need in Orange Cove is for education. Though some will go on to higher education, most people in Orange Cove need literacy, computer and vocational training. People here struggle against poverty and lack of opportunity."

To support educational needs in the community, the residents of the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library service area need to have access to a full range of library services. They will require collections balanced to meet the needs and interests of children, youth and adults, sufficient and varied seating for a range of library-related activities, generous computing power, and appropriately configured learning and meeting spaces.

In this small, economically poor community, where people struggle with a lack of education, literacy and language skills, and where they strive to improve their lives and those of their children, the library can be a pivotal agent of change. This is especially true at this time, when Orange Cove is taking numerous positive steps to redefine itself as a lovely small city, with growing educational and economic opportunities.

Based on service area demographics and community input, library service to children and their families should be of primary concern. In this enduring community, library services will be instrumental in breaking patterns of poverty by helping children to be successful in school and by empowering parents to improve their own lives and those of their children. The library will serve students in grades K-12. A school-library partnership will provide a joint venture Homework Center to help students establish strong study skills.

A Technology Learning Lab will provide computer skills training for students, parents and others in the community. A tutoring space will be needed for literacy and subject specific tutoring. It is hoped that these features in the neighborhood library will help to prepare parents to be active partners in their children's education.

Services should include a collection of well-selected books, periodicals and audiovisual materials of sufficient quantity to meet the educational and recreational needs of the community. Materials should be current and should include a range of reading levels and content sophistication. Spanish language collections in all formats should be ample and literature from multi-ethnic authors will be important. Most literate adults in the community read Spanish better than English. However, both children and parents who participated in the community needs assessment, spoke to the fact that while school-aged children speak both Spanish and English, they read and write in English. Consequently, library collections for this statistically young community should be balanced to meet both the Spanish and English reading needs of adults and the largely English language reading needs of younger readers and upcoming generations.

Seating should be generous—both in terms of quantity and comfort. Seating for students will be a high priority, as will seating that encourages parents and children to

read and experience language and literature together. Lounge seating for adult reading and browsing should create a “Community Living Room.”

Computing power, in a range of configurations for children, teens and adults, is crucial. Generous computer access should be included as part of after school homework assistance, computer literacy training, and self-paced use for research, learning and communication. A wide range of software to support literacy training, school curricula and general computing needs will be essential.

Comfortable, flexible space for library-sponsored programming, especially for young children, is critical for the community. Early childhood programming in a cozy setting, will provide exposure to language, literature and experiences that are central to reading readiness and future success in school. During the needs assessment process planners frequently heard from area pre-school educators and parents about the success of the Fresno County Public Library’s Day Care Outreach Program, which brings stories and programming to young children at child development centers. This type of important programming should be available at the library on a regular basis.

Programming for school-age children is needed to build on early skills, to broaden exposure to literature and to foster intellectual curiosity. Programs to attract teens and older children are needed to encourage learning and to offer interesting, constructive experiences in a safe venue.

For adults, programming space will increase community involvement and cross-cultural understanding by providing a venue for a variety of informational and educational offerings.

The Orange Cove Neighborhood Library should be easy to identify, with excellent signage in both English and Spanish. The new library must be a welcoming place with a nurturing atmosphere. Residents of the service area are most likely to walk or bicycle to the library, and some will drive.

Construction of a new library, the first permanent library in Orange Cove, presents the opportunity to provide a model neighborhood library with strong services that will stand as a landmark of growing community pride, and will be a key factor in the City’s transformation.

B. Library Services Needed But Currently Unavailable

Public library services needed but currently unavailable at the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library include:

- Broader and deeper collections in a variety of formats;
- Larger Spanish language collections in multiple formats;
- Space, tools and staff to support homework assistance;
- Sufficient public computer workstations to support community needs;
- A technology-training venue to meet community information literacy needs;
- Programs for children that can be offered regularly in appropriate space;
- Programs for teens and adults that can be offered in appropriate space;
- Meeting and tutoring space;
- Increased general seating, study seating and variety of seating; and
- A safe, comfortable, appealing facility designed to meet the unique personality of the Orange Cove community.

School library services needed but currently unavailable through the Kings Canyon Unified School District include:

- Adequate library collections to support student needs;
- Library facilities and services that empower parents as partners in their student's education;
- After school student access to collections, study space and computers; and
- Year-round provision of library services.

C. Overview of Current Library Service

The Orange Cove Neighborhood Library is one of thirty-two branches in the Fresno County Public Library System. It was established in 1915 and was originally co-located with the Orange Cove Post Office. It moved to its current quarters on Park Boulevard, the main commercial street in the City, in 1975. In the 88 years since it was established, the library has always been housed in leased space. The current site is a leased building constructed in 1944, which housed a pharmacy for twenty-five years before the library moved to the location. The building has a total of 2,500 square feet, but only 1,434 square feet are available for public services due to floor level changes that result in the remaining 1,066 square feet being less than fully accessible.

The neighborhood library is open 34 hours each week, Monday through Thursday and on Saturday. It is closed on Fridays and Sundays. The Orange Cove Neighborhood Library has a staff FTE of 1.0, which includes one Library Assistant II at .9 FTE and one part-time custodian at .1 FTE. Library extra-help staff substitute in the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library when the permanent Library Assistant II is on vacation, ill, etc.

The library's collection currently stands at 14,234 books and audiovisual media, equating to 1.6 items per capita. According to data supplied by the California State Library, The statewide mean for libraries serving populations of 20,000 or less (smallest population division data available) is 5.6 items per capita. The national mean for communities of

10,000 or less is 4.8 library items per capita. The collections are balanced almost equally between adult and juvenile materials, and approximately 10% of the collections are in Spanish. In FY 2002-2003, the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library circulated 19,936 items, equating to an annual turnover rate of 1.4 circulations per item, which is below the national turnover average of 1.76. However, between FY 2001-2002 and FY 2002-2003 the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library experienced a 9.3% increase in total circulation and a 26% increase in Readers Aide Transactions.

The Orange Cove Neighborhood Library provides 5 public access computers, which are heavily used by visitors. Most residents of the service area do not own a home computer and so rely on the local library or the community center for access to modern technology. Residents note that they must almost always wait to use one of the library's computer workstations. During a typical six-month period, the Orange Cove Library logs more than 4,300 (30 minute) PC use sessions.

Weekday afternoons, elementary and middle school aged children flock to the library—as many as 30 children may spend their afternoons in the neighborhood library. Many children come alone or with friends from school, while others visit the library with a parent. The rush starts early on Tuesday and Thursdays when school is out at 1:00 p.m. Children spend their time at the library doing homework, visiting with friends and taking turns working on the five public access computers. The after school rush can last until closing at 6:00 p.m. There are only 22 seats in the library, so not only are some children unable to find seats, any other community library users generally leave during this time of day rather than trying to compete with the after school crowd.

When school classes visit the neighborhood library, they are accommodated as well as possible in the limited space. Programs for children and adults are offered on a limited basis due to space and layout constraints. There are no separate areas or rooms for programs or meetings, so when a program is scheduled, other library services come to a near halt due to noise levels and lack of space. During the school year the library hosts more than three class visits each month. Class visits, like programs, have limited effectiveness due to space issues and an insufficient number of computers for teaching and orientation.

Most library visitors walk to the library. As noted previously in this study, the demographics of the service area show an economically poor population. Many people either do not own automobiles, or use the one family car for work. The City of Orange Cove is isolated and not well served by public transportation, so the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library may be the only library that residents are able to access directly.

D. Overall Service Needs

The current library provides only .16 square feet of publicly accessible library space per capita to the community it serves. The library is housed in a leased space totaling 2,500 square feet, but because the facility was never designed to be a library, it has floor level changes that make 1,066 square feet of the space inaccessible to the public. Ramps do connect the varying floor levels, but they do not have handrails and are not ADA compliant. The now shabby facility was constructed in 1944, long before today's multi-

faceted and technology rich library services could be imagined, and it is totally inadequate to support a modern branch library.

A larger, modern facility will allow for growth in book and audiovisual collections to serve the community and sufficient public access computer stations for a community that is largely without Internet access in their homes. Increased space will accommodate sufficient reader seating and a variety of service spaces that are sorely needed for student support, library-sponsored programs, community meetings and literacy activities.

The Orange Cove Neighborhood Library is not as well used by the community as it could be. In this small, economically poor community, where people struggle with a lack of education, literacy and language skills, and where they strive to improve their lives and those of their children, the library can be a pivotal agent of change. This is especially true at this time, when Orange Cove is taking positive steps to redefine itself as a lovely small city with growing educational and economic opportunities for its citizens. The current leased library facility severely limits the library's ability to fulfill this role. Construction of a new library, the first permanent library in Orange Cove, presents the opportunity to provide a model neighborhood library with strong services that will stand as a landmark of growing community pride and will be a key factor in the City's transformation.

E. Technology Access for the Orange Cove Community

As noted previously in this study, the Orange Cove service area is a prime example of the "digital divide"—where people at lower socio-economic levels have less access to technology and so fall further and further behind. In 2002, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Economics and Statistics Administration published *A Nation Online: How Americans Are Expanding Their Use of the Internet*. The study, based on U.S. Census Bureau statistics, is a survey of approximately 57,000 households and more than 137,000 individuals across the United States, providing information that is among the most broad-based and reliable ever gathered on Internet, broadband, and computer connectivity. Extensive data is available through the study, and key findings reinforce local demographic information and anecdotal input gathered for the Orange Cove service area.

- The study reports that people with a lower income and lower education attainment do not use computers or the Internet as much or as often as people with higher income or those who have attained a higher level of education.
- People of Hispanic origin use the computer less often than non-Hispanic Whites or Asians.

In the Orange Cove service area, where 87.7% of the population is Hispanic of any race, where the median per capita income is \$7,897 dollars per year and where 70.5% of people age 25 and older have less than a high school education, the NTIA study shows important parallels. During the Orange Cove community needs assessment, the following comments further illustrated the lack of, and need for, expanded access to technology.

“Most of our families don’t have a computer in their homes. They need plenty of computers in the library and people to help them learn how to use a computer.”—Staff meeting, Julia A. Lopez Child Development Center.

In a parent meeting at the Julia A. Lopez Child Development Center, out of 60 attendees, only 4 indicated that they owned a working home computer, and only 2 of those individuals had Internet access.

“Access to computers and instruction is needed, because very few people have them in their homes.”—Comment from Community Forum, June 26, 2003.

Of the 21 participants in an adult ESL class visit, which was part of the community input for the needs assessment, none had computers in their homes. Additionally, of the 8 children/teens who met with evaluators during an open computer lab at the community center, none had computers in their homes.

“Very few people here have computers at home. They need to have access to computers in the library and many will need to have training too.”—Mary Medina, Learning Director, Citrus Head Start Program Center.

“The number one need in Orange Cove is education. By that I mean that people need to have some life skills—they need to speak and read English, they need to know how to use a computer and to understand how that is part of people’s lives and work these days.”—Mario Melendrez, SER Jobs for Progress, Interim Project Manager.

“Young people need access to computers—almost no one here has a home computer, but everyone needs to know how to use a computer for school and work.”—Claudia Garcia & Horacio Bravo, Orange Cove Youth Center.

“I have two computers at home and I have teenaged neighbors who come to the house to use them for their homework because they don’t have computers.”—Frank Martinez, Orange Cove City Council Member.

F. Services to Children and Their Families

Twenty-three percent of the population served by the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library is under the age of 10. Another 10% is between 10-14 years of age. Statistically, these children live in crowded conditions with families where the parents have less than a high school education, may not speak English well, and earn too little money to expose their children to a wide range of educational experiences.

Service needs for the children of the Orange Cove service area center around access to a range of books and educational tools to introduce them to language and learning in the library and in their homes. Materials should also support English language learning through exposure to audiovisual resources.

Many parents and grandparents in the community are not fluent in English and have limited or no literacy skills in any language, so they may be unable to assist children with

their schoolwork. The neighborhood library will be a central educational resource for these families and a place where children and adults can learn side-by-side.

The need for improved reading readiness and family literacy makes programming an essential part of library services to children and families in the service area. Comfortable, flexible space will be needed for a variety of programs such as storytelling, music, arts and crafts, theatre, puppetry, and poetry.

Collections should provide a generous assortment of picture books and easy readers. A portion of these should be Spanish-English bilingual books to help families learn together and to preserve fluency in native Spanish as well as building fluency in English.

School-age children will need access to a strong reference collection and a broad collection of nonfiction to support their schoolwork, as well as fiction for academic and recreational reading. Area school libraries vary in collection strength, and high school students are currently bused to a school outside of the service area, giving them little opportunity to use their school library. Students will rely on their neighborhood library for after-school, evening and weekend service. When the new Orange Cove High School is completed, it will be a district-wide magnet school for engineering and sciences, but it will also serve as the basic high school for the students in the Orange Cove service area. At that time high school students will be better able to take advantage of their school library as well as their neighborhood library.

Computer access for children and their families will be critical in the new facility, as most families do not have computers or Internet service at home, and many people may also need help in developing their computer skills. Computer stations should be configured with hardware and software to accommodate Spanish-speaking users. Some computer stations should accommodate two seats so that parents and children can use them together, or friends can comfortably assist one another.

G. Services to Students

Students in grades K-12 require access to library services to support their schoolwork. In order to establish important study skills and to help students and their families experience early and continuing success in the educational system, library service to Orange Cove's students is especially important. In the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library service area, student needs include print and electronic collections, equipment, appropriately configured study space and qualified assistance with their homework assignments. As an extension of those needs, it will be important to maintain and build on the existing collaboration between the Fresno County Public Library and area schools, and to assist parents in their role as their children's educational partners.

Two new schools, a middle school and a high school, are being constructed in Orange Cove, and the current middle school will be retrofitted to open as an additional elementary school. A new private college will soon be offering classes leading to degrees in Education. Reference resources, both in print and online, will need to be sufficient to meet the growing needs of area students and should support school district curricula. Sufficient computer stations will be needed to access online materials of all kinds.

The circulating book collection should be selected with school curricula in mind, but should also broadly support students' intellectual curiosity. Materials will need to be available at a range of reading levels and abilities. The adult nonfiction collection will also serve area student needs for material to support their schoolwork. Access to a range of subscription electronic databases will be important to support student research needs. Students will also use the libraries current magazine collection to support their schoolwork.

Audiovisual collections are key to student needs and should include films and audio books of literature that are studied as part of the school curriculum. Students with limited English language skills and students with different learning styles or challenges will find these resources to be invaluable. Equipment to access audiovisual collections should be available in the neighborhood library.

Generous after-school homework space, that is acoustically separated, is needed to accommodate a number of students each weekday. This space should be large enough for homework assistants to comfortably work with students at tables and on computers. Computers that will be used by students should be loaded with a variety of software that supports document preparation and which complements programs in district schools. An up-to-date collection of core subject textbooks for K-12 students to use in the library will support homework assignments. A small supply of basic school supplies will also be useful.

A room to accommodate group study and brainstorming will support current educational emphasis on collaborative learning and group projects. Currently the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library supports middle school and high school independent study students and their tutors, who meet in the library. They will appreciate having a room that will provide private space for them to work. This space will also be used for one-on-one literacy tutoring and for general subject tutoring for students.

A center for copying and printing is needed for students and the general public. It should include equipment for making copies and scanning, and the equipment should interface with desktop publishing software located on public access computers. Small equipment will be needed here for preparing documents—staplers, hole punches, etc.

H. Services To Teens

Most communities need library space that teens can call their own, but such a space may be especially important in the Orange Cove service area, where young people have very few places to go for educational and recreational interests or to spend time with friends.

Teens need a safe and welcoming place to “hang-out”, meet friends, study, read books and magazines, work on computers and listen to music or view films. The teen area of the library needs to be inviting, with age appropriate décor and furnishings, and sufficient space for teens to read and study together.

Some collections used by teens will be housed in the adult and juvenile collections, but there should be a strong collection of magazines, fiction and nonfiction books and

graphic novels in the teen area, which are especially appealing to this age group. Collections for teens should include resources, print and electronic, to help young people explore career and education options. The Orange Cove service area has a high percentage of teen parents—15.7% of area births are to teen mothers as compared to 10% statewide. In order to help address teen parenting needs, the Library and the School District agree that it will be important to include a parenting collection in the teen section of the new Orange Cove Neighborhood Library. The teen parenting collection will be complimented with programs in the schools for teen parents, which promote the importance of reading to and interacting with babies and toddlers.

Because there are so few recreational and educational venues for teens in Orange Cove, well-planned, age appropriate library programs are likely to be popular. Programming space is needed to support programs for teens, such as a poetry café, a job or educational fair, or contemporary music exploration.

Teens tend to be quite interested in technology and electronic resources, so the teen area of the library should include computers.

I. Services to Adults

The service area community is an example of the “digital divide” where people at lower socio-economic levels have less access to technology and so fall farther and farther behind. To help bridge the divide, a generous number of open access computers are needed for adults in the community. Most households do not have computers or Internet access, so library users will need to be able to search for information, access self-paced training and educational programs, and check email in the library. An area is needed in the library for computer literacy training. Because many in the community have had very little exposure to computer technology, basic computer skills classes should include an overview of how the computer is used in homes, schools and the workplace today. Literacy and computer literacy training can empower parents to help their children with schoolwork and will improve employment skills and confidence.

The adult area of the neighborhood library should effectively market a wide range of books to community adults and seniors. In nonfiction, all subject areas should be represented—how-to, history, cultural and historic materials relating to the community, biography and self-help. Because unemployment is a persistent problem in the community, it will be important to have a strong collection of career materials and resources about education program choices. Oversized books that provide visual as well as reading interest should be included. Fiction collections should be broad and up to date with a substantial collection of books in Spanish. Multi-ethnic authors should be well represented.

The collections should support a variety of reading abilities and should include high-interest novellas and photonovellas. Literacy materials in English and Spanish that address the need for literacy in the areas of basic English reading and writing and basic math skills will be important in the Orange Cove Community. Literacy collections should include self-paced electronic software resources and resources recommended by literacy tutors.

Arrangement of the collections and seating areas should encourage browsing, with bookstore style marketing and sufficient covers displayed face out to attract readers and browsers.

Because the adult educational attainment level is quite low in the service area, and income levels make it difficult for most people to purchase books or periodicals, many members of the community have not developed a regular reading habit. To help foster reading habits it will be important for the library to have a strong and inviting periodicals section to include newspapers and magazines in both English and Spanish. Most service area residents live in crowded quarters and have little opportunity to sit quietly and comfortably to read or think. Ample space should be included in the periodicals section of the library to provide comfortable, quiet seating in a peaceful atmosphere away from the appropriately noisy children's area. This area could also include designated quiet reading and study space to help maintain a calm, focused ambience.

Community seniors are likely to use the periodicals area regularly to catch up on the news. This may be the most upscale area of the facility, providing the community with a shared and valued "living room." It should have lounge and study seating, attractive displays of magazines and newspapers and features that encourage contemplation such as views to an exterior landscaped area or garden.

Strong audiovisual collections are needed to support the recreational interests of the community and to encourage the development of English fluency. The collections should include both Spanish and English audiovisual materials. Language educators note the importance of English language audiovisual materials being played in homes to improve language familiarity and skills. Entertainment videos will be popular, but the collection should also include informational, documentary and how-to videos.

Space for literacy tutoring, small group meetings and other semi-private purposes (meetings between potential employers and job seekers, resume preparation, etc.) is needed in the library.

Community adults seeking community event information, jobs, training, educational opportunities, citizenship information, health and social service agencies, etc. will need a convenient space for informational brochures. The library should include an area for informational handouts, leading residents to the services they require.

Adults and seniors in the service area will appreciate being able to attend informational programs at the library. Community members suggested a variety of topics that may be of interest, including area history, agriculture related seminars and cultural programs that celebrate the community's largely Mexican and Salvadoran heritage. Programs of this type and others, for a range of ages and interests, will require a community meeting room in the new facility.

V. Service Limitations of the Existing Library

A. Executive Summary

Orange Cove has never had a permanent, county-owned library. Eighty-eight years ago the library was established in shared space with the local post office. Since 1975, the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library has been housed in a leased facility, formerly a pharmacy, which was constructed in 1944. The services offered by modern public libraries have changed profoundly since 1944, and the leased facility is totally inadequate to meet the size or service needs of the growing Orange Cove community.

The building in which the library is housed was built before automation and has never been renovated, so it does not have the electronic infrastructure required to support an appropriate level of library technology, either for the public or the staff.

Technology in the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library is completely inadequate, as are the size and layout of the space. Because it is a leased facility, the Fresno County Public Library is limited in the modifications and improvements it can make, and which are fiscally sound.

At 1,434 accessible square feet, the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library is undersized to meet the needs of the current service area population of 8,767. The facility provides only .16 square feet of accessible library space per capita. The anticipated 60% population increase in the service area will exacerbate the crowded conditions, and by the year 2020 the current facility will afford only .10 square feet of accessible library space per capita.

The Orange Cove Neighborhood Library is essentially one open space until it changes levels at the rear of the building, where staff space has been established. All activities for adults, teens and children must take place in the one, crowded room. Day-to-day activity at computers and reading tables, and in book stacks, produces a constant level of noise that is not conducive to study, relaxation or concentration. The noise level is aggravated anytime that a program or event is introduced into the space.

Book shelving, paperback racks, user seats and service areas are all arranged in space that is too small. Due to size constraints, the 14,234 volume collection cannot grow to meet the current or future needs of the community. There is a clear sense of overcrowding, and traffic patterns are awkward. Aisle widths are less than 36" in some areas. Any sort of minimal privacy for circulation transactions or reference questions is impossible.

Space and infrastructure restrictions make the addition of public access computers, beyond the five existing machines, impossible. Visitors know that they will have to wait to use a computer. The neighborhood library has only 22 reader seats, all at tables or benches, which are insufficient to meet demand—especially after school each weekday.

In spite of collection, space and technology shortcomings, the small Orange Cove Neighborhood Library is increasingly well used. Between FY 2001-2002 and FY 2002-2003 the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library experienced a 9.3% increase in total circulation and a 26% increase in Readers Aide Transactions.

Service area families live in crowded conditions, and students rely heavily on the neighborhood library as the place where they can do their homework after school. The small size of the facility means that there are no quiet study spaces, and unless students are among the early arrivals, they are unlikely to find any seats at all.

In this community where programming could vastly enrich the lives of residents, and help to prepare young children for school, no space is available to support library or community sponsored programs. Though occasional children's programs are offered, they render the rest of the library essentially unusable. There is no training space for adults in the community, many of whom are critically in need of language, literacy and computer skills training.

Due to the layout of the leased building, staff has established space at the rear of the facility, where the floor changes levels, and so presents access problems if used as a public area. The staff area is awkward and inefficient in layout, and inconvenient to the service desk, which is, by necessity, at the other end of the building. In this thinly staffed neighborhood library, the layout precludes efficient use of staff time between the service desk and back-of-house duties.

The only restroom in the leased facility is located off of a storage room at the far rear of the building. It is a single, tiny, non-ADA compliant facility shared by the staff and the public. In order to use the restroom, library visitors must ask permission to use the facilities, get directions, and then pass through the staff area, and a storage area to reach the restroom. No water fountain is available in the library, so there is no place for patrons to get a drink of water.

Sound is another challenge. Routine activities at computers and reading tables, and in book stacks, produce a constant level of noise that is not conducive to study, relaxation or concentration. The noise level can be intolerable for many visitors when children's programs or class visits are in progress, or after school when the library fills with young students.

The residents of Orange Cove have waited a long time for improvements that can help break the cycle of poverty in their community. Tangible progress is finally underway in the areas of education, economic opportunity and quality of life initiatives, and the small city is changing. There are great possibilities for the successful expansion of library services to help meet identified community needs, but service growth is impossibly limited in the poorly configured, restricted space currently available. After 88 years, it is time for the people of Orange Cove to have a county-owned, well-planned neighborhood library, designed to meet their particular educational and recreational needs now and in the future.

B. Size and Facilities

At 1,434 accessible square feet, the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library is undersized to meet the needs of the current service area population of 8,767. The facility provides only .16 square feet of accessible library space per capita. The anticipated 60% population increase in the service area will exacerbate the crowded conditions, and by the year 2020 the current facility will afford only .10 square feet of library space per capita.

Specifically, the undersized facility does not allow for adequate services in any area, including collections, seating, computing, training or programming. In addition to overall space issues, the building was never designed to be a library—it housed a pharmacy for 25 years before the library leased the space. Consequently, the building's layout is not conducive to library services. Spaces are divided awkwardly and there are unfortunate level changes that greatly reduce the building's usefulness and create ADA issues.

Staff space in the facility is limited and does not provide adequately for service planning, service desk duties and other associated public services such as holds/reserves, efficient reshelving of materials, etc. The facility does not have a materials security system in place to protect the collections.

The only restroom in the leased facility is located off of a storage room at the far rear of the building. It is a single, tiny, non-ADA compliant facility shared by the staff and the public. In order to use the restroom, library visitors must ask permission to use the facilities, get directions, and then pass through the staff area, and a storage room to reach the restroom. There is no water fountain in the facility.

C. Noise and Congestion

The Orange Cove Neighborhood Library is essentially one open space until it changes levels at the rear of the building, where a staff workroom has been established. All activities for adults, seniors, teens and children must take place in the one, crowded room. Day-to-day activity at computers and reading tables, and in book stacks, produces a constant level of noise that is not conducive to study, relaxation or concentration. The ceilings are high and open, adding to noise problems. The noise level is critically aggravated anytime that a program or event is introduced into the space.

Book shelving, paperback racks, user seats and service areas are all arranged in space that is too small. There is a clear sense of overcrowding, and traffic patterns are awkward. Aisle widths are less than 36" in some areas. Any sort of minimal privacy for circulation transactions or reference questions is impossible.

D. Seating

There are 22 seats available in the current facility—20 of those are at tables, two are bench seats. Other than five seats at the public access computers, there is no additional seating available for users. There is no variety in the seating—no lounge seats area

available, and except for the task seats at the computers, all of the chairs are straight-backed, wooden desk chairs. As noted by users during the community needs assessment, these do not encourage visitors to sit and read. After school each weekday, the few available seats quickly fill up with students, and those who arrive later may not find a seat at all. None of the seats in the current facility is conducive to quiet study. In this community, with a high number of occupants per household, many children do not have any physical space at home in which to do schoolwork. Unless they are among the early after-school arrivals, they generally find the same situation at the library.

E. Collections and Shelving

The branch collections are too small to serve the current community, providing 1.6 items per capita, as compared to a statewide mean of 1.86 items per capita and a nationwide mean of 4.8 items per capita in communities of comparable size. Based on population projections, by the year 2020 the ratio will drop to 1.0 items per capita.



Shelves are filled to overflowing, and are so packed, that in order to add to the collection, existing materials must be weeded. Face-out or display shelving is unavailable and impossible to add in the cramped space.

The collections and services of the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library are increasingly well used. Between FY 2001-2002 and FY 2002-2003 the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library experienced a 9.3% increase in total circulation and a 26% increase in Readers Aide Transactions.

Since the passage of Measure B in 1998 (a 1/8th cent sales tax which provides for expanded collections), Fresno County Library has tripled the materials budget. However the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library collection has reached the maximum size that the facility can support. To

provide patrons with access to the most popular materials, Temporary Book Collections are circulated to the neighborhood library, but the number of books that can be accommodated, and the length of time they can remain, is limited by shelf space availability.

While shared borrowing is available from other system branches, students and others often do not plan ahead sufficiently to request additional materials. Also, there are in-house library users who do not have library cards and/or a level of understanding of library services to make shared borrowing a viable option.

During community meetings, Spanish speakers commented on the limited number of titles available to them in their native language.

F. Computers and Technology

Five public access computers are available to Orange Cove Neighborhood Library visitors, and they are in constant use, with people waiting to have a turn at the stations. It is difficult to know how many people leave the library in frustration, being unable to access one of the public computers. During FY 2002-2003, more than 8,000 people participated in computer use sessions (30 minute sessions) in the library.

Space and infrastructure constraints preclude the addition of more computer stations, and the existing space for each public computer is cramped, with no materials space for books and papers.

The small building and limited computers make it impossible to provide computer-training classes to the community—a need noted repeatedly during the community assessment.

There are no audiovisual stations in the library for users to listen/view library materials. In this economically poor community, many do not have home systems on which to play library audiovisual resources.

One black and white copy machine, serves the needs of all library users, who pay for their copies at the service desk since there is no coin/card operation feature. No document preparation area or adjacent workspace is possible.

G. Study and Tutoring

As noted throughout this study, the service community has significant need for adult literacy tutoring and spaces for students to study.

Students from service area schools pour into the library after school where they work on homework and visit with friends. School library services are generally limited to the school day, and high school students, who are bused to school in Reedley, are largely unable to take advantage of the school library's extended hours because they board buses after school to return home. When the new Orange Cove High School is completed, high school students will be better able to take advantage of their school library as well as the neighborhood library. Orange Cove's students rely on the neighborhood library to support their schoolwork. As noted above, seating is inadequate to meet student demand.

In fiscal year 2002-2003 there were 28 visits from Orange Cove schools to the neighborhood library. During those visits, 567 children and 146 adults participated in library orientations and were able to listen to stories or undertake research for their school assignments.

Literacy services are central to addressing the needs of the Orange Cove community, and tutoring, both literacy and subject specific, requires semi-private space that is acoustically separated from other spaces. Currently the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library supports middle school and high school independent study students and their

tutors, who meet in the library. No private space is available in the current library to support this and other tutoring needs for adults and school-age residents.

H. Programming and Meeting Space

To promote reading readiness, parent involvement, lifelong learning and positive venues for teens, there is need for library-sponsored programming at all levels, but there is no room whatsoever to accommodate programs in the current, leased facility. Efforts to provide basic children's programming are, by necessity, limited by a lack of appropriate space. Although there is no program or meeting room space available in the library, staff pushes back the furniture and does the best they can to offer needed programs in limited space. During fiscal year 2002-2003 the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library offered 23 preschool programs, which were attended by 450 children and 92 adults, and presented 6 special children's programs and events for children up to age 14, which were attended by 608 children and 235 adults.

On average, more than 60 people attend each program offered at the library. Each time there is a program, other activity in the library essentially ceases due of limited staffing, noise levels and lack of space and seating.

The fact that there are no easily accessible public restrooms adds to the considerable difficulties associated with library programming in Orange Cove.

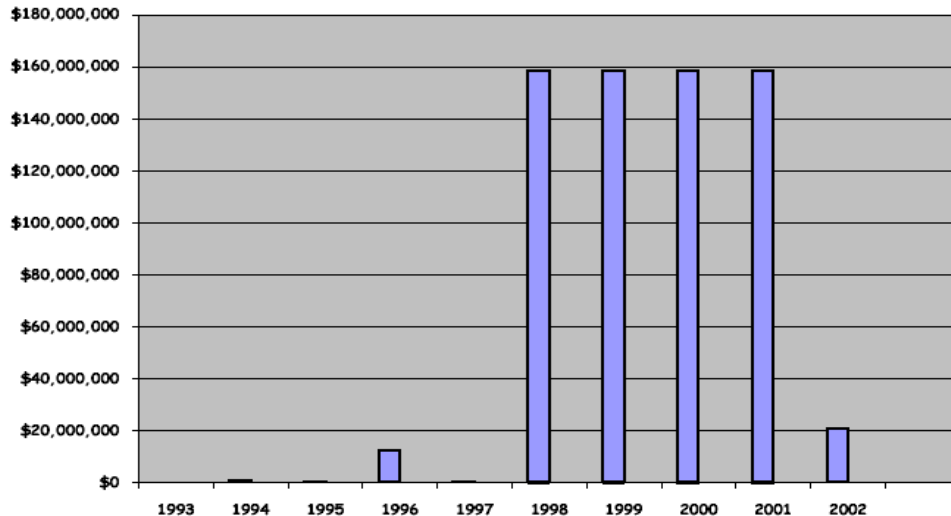
Community members commented on their interest in comfortable space, free of charge, to accommodate library-sponsored events for children, teens and adults.

I. School Library Services

All of the Kings Canyon Unified School District schools in Orange Cove, as well as Reedley High School, which is outside of the service area, but which serves 490 Orange Cove students, have libraries. Thanks to the California School Library Act of 1998, which provided desperately needed funding in school libraries, the libraries were able, until 2002, to provide a good selection of curriculum support materials during the school day. Between 1998-2001, school libraries in the Kings Canyon Unified School District received an annual allocation of \$28.00 per student served. However, in academic year 2002-2003, per student funding for school library collections and services dropped dramatically, to \$3.33 per student. In the current year, 2003-2004, funding has dropped even further, to \$1.41 per student, making it impossible to maintain adequate library collections and services.

Table 21

California School Library Funding



Pre-1994 No state funding for school libraries
 1994 California Public School Library Protection Fund - *tax checkoff*
 1998 California Public School Library Act - *ongoing state funding for all California school libraries*
 2002-03 Library Act funds - *reduced 87% during midyear budget adjustment process*

Curriculum Frameworks Office
 California Department of Education
 April 2003

All elementary and middle school libraries are staffed by certified Library Technicians, or by technicians in a certification program. The high school library is staffed by a Library Media Teacher, and certified Library Media Technicians. All district schools have Internet access in the library.

Elementary and middle school libraries in Orange Cove limit their hours to the academic day. Extended after-school hours, until 6:00 p.m., are provided at Reedley High School, but because Orange Cove students are currently bused to attend school in Reedley, they are not generally able to take advantage of the longer library hours. This places additional importance on the neighborhood public library, which must meet after-school student needs for academic support. When the new Orange Cove High School is completed, students will be better able to take advantage of their school library as well as their neighborhood library.

Two new district schools are being constructed in Orange Cove. A new, replacement middle school, to serve 675 students, will open its doors in the fall of 2004. The school will include a library, to be located in a common area that is shared by the school's administration and the library. Over the summer of 2004, the current middle school will be retrofitted to serve as an additional elementary school. Plans for that renovation include a small library with Internet access for students and staff. Ground will be broken in November of 2003 on a new high school for Orange Cove. It will be a magnet school with an emphasis in engineering and the sciences and will serve a student population of 900. Orange Cove students and science-oriented district students will attend the school,

which will open its doors in the fall of 2005. The library planned for the new high school will include both general collections and specialized collections in the sciences and engineering.

Three existing public schools, plus two new public schools grades K-12, all administered by the Kings Canyon Unified School District, will be served by the new Orange Cove Neighborhood Library.

VI. Physical Limitations of the Existing Library

A. Executive Summary

The residents of Orange Cove and the surrounding rural areas struggle to break a cycle of poverty that is founded on a lack of education and opportunity. In recent years positive, measurable developments have put Orange Cove on track to address long-standing challenges in the areas of education, economic development and quality of life issues. There are many agents of change at work in the community, inspiring hope for a brighter future. The Orange Cove Neighborhood Library is well positioned to play an important role in helping the community to reach its goals, but the physical limitations of the leased facility in which it is housed severely curtail its ability to do so.

In the 88 years since the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library was established, it has always been housed in leased space. The types of improvements that can be made in leased property are limited, and funding can be put to more lasting use in developing a new, county-owned facility, and to improvements in collections and services for the benefit of the public.

Built in 1944, the current, leased facility's infrastructure cannot support an appropriate level of library technology. ADA access is poor, with floor level changes that preclude using more than 40% of the building's square footage for public services. The remaining 1,434 square feet equate to only .16 square feet of accessible library space per capita. Because the library is undersized, service areas and functions for all ages overlap, making it confusing to navigate and creating unacceptable noise levels. Collections and furnishings are critically overcrowded; stack aisles are narrow, and traffic patterns are awkward, leading to numerous inefficiencies.

The single small restroom is not easily accessible to any library visitor and is completely inaccessible to people who have physical disabilities. There is no water fountain. The concrete and plaster construction of the building is inefficient, with single-paned windows and no apparent insulation. The HVAC system is marginal and there is no air-conditioning in the facility. During the rainy season the building springs troublesome roof leaks that threaten to damage the collections.

The library is housed in a storefront, so there are no outside or landscaped areas to support its services. While this would not be surprising in an urban setting, it is incongruous in Orange Cove, which is a small city with deep roots in rural agriculture. There is no dedicated parking for the library.

The leased building is shabby and is showing its age, but appears to be structurally sound, though it has not been updated to current seismic safety standards. It was last re-carpeted and painted inside in 1989. The only windows in the structure are in the storefront, so the space is dark. High ceilings make lighting treatments difficult, which results in insufficient light at reader seats and in the stacks. The mid-1940s era construction virtually guarantees the presence of asbestos in the floor tiles and structure, as well as lead-based paint. The presence of these hazards precludes further building renovations to a leased facility due to the cost of environmental abatement procedures to meet State and Federal standards.

Staff space is, by necessity, divided between the extreme front of the library, where the service desk is located next to the entrance, and the extreme rear of the building where a staff workroom has been located because floor level changes make the space unusable for public services. This division of space in a small library with minimal staffing is highly inefficient. There is no materials security system in the library to protect the collections.

The current service area population is 8,767 and the 2020 population is projected to rise by 60%, to 14,000. Population growth in the service area will exacerbate library overcrowding beyond tolerance and by 2020 it will result in only .10 square feet of accessible library space in the current, leased facility.

The many physical limitations of the facility make it impossible for the library to provide an appropriate level of service to this growing and changing community. The building's infrastructure cannot support modern library services and technology. The shabby facility is undersized, noisy, inefficient and not fully accessible to users.

In order for the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library to provide sorely needed library services and to take a leadership role in the transformation that is currently underway in the service community, it must have an appropriately sized, comfortable and attractive, technology-friendly facility.

B. Facility Size and Structure

Perhaps the most important information about the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library facility is that it is a leased building. In the 88 years since the library was established, it has always been housed in leased space. The types of improvements that can be made in leased property are limited, and funding can be put to more lasting use in developing a new, county-owned facility, and to improvements in collections and services for the benefit of the public.

The existing, leased building which houses the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library was constructed in 1944 and served as a local pharmacy until the early 1970s. The library moved into the space in 1975. At 1,434 square feet of publicly accessible space, the library is undersized to meet the needs of the current service area population of 8,767. The facility provides only .16 square feet of accessible library space per capita. The anticipated 60% population increase in the service area will exacerbate the crowded conditions, and by the year 2020 the current facility will afford only .10 square feet of accessible library space per capita.

The size does not provide sufficient space to serve public needs for adequate and balanced collections, reader seating, public computer access, programming or meeting space, training, after-school demand or adequate restroom facilities.

Size and layout have forced inefficient staff spaces and there is not sufficient space available for a staff lounge or break room. The interior of the building was last painted and re-carpeted in 1989. No other improvements have been made.



The HVAC system is inadequate and works sporadically, and a large, exposed plenum was added at some point in the building's history to help distribute heat. There is no air-conditioning in the library, in a city where summer temperatures routinely register in the upper 90s and above. During the rainy season the roof has leaks that threaten the collections.

The building structure has concrete and plaster walls on a poured-in-place concrete foundation. The building is shabby and is showing its age, but the structure appears to be basically sound, though it has not been seismically upgraded to modern safety standards. The mid-1940s era construction virtually guarantees the presence of asbestos in the floor tiles and structure, as well as lead-based paint. The presence of these hazards precludes further building renovations to a leased facility due to the cost of environmental abatement procedures to meet State and Federal standards. The building was not designed as a library and was not designed or built to meet current codes for strength, safety or energy efficiency.

There are electrical problems in the building. Recently, circuits serving half of the library's lights and the library heater overloaded. To repair the problem, the building's breaker box was replaced, but wiring and service capacity were not updated.

C. Location and Visibility

Housed in a storefront on Park Boulevard, the main commercial street in Orange Cove, the existing, leased library facility is conveniently located to serve the public. Because the town is small, most children can walk to the library after school in its present downtown location. There are no exterior grounds or landscaping associated with the library, which is rather incongruous in this small, city with deep agricultural connections. While the building location is easily visible, there is little to distinguish the library from other storefronts along Park Boulevard. It is not immediately identifiable as a library.

The proposed Orange Cove Neighborhood Library will be located in the center of town on a parcel of land at the intersection of Park Boulevard and West Railroad Avenue. This ideal location will be adjacent to City Hall, the downtown, Eaton Park, and the new Senior Center. All existing and proposed Orange Cove schools will be less than a mile from the new library, with Sheridan Elementary School and Citrus Middle School located half a mile from the new library, and McCord Elementary located only a quarter of a mile from the new facility. New bike paths, currently being designed, will connect the new library site to all of the service area schools and to other key destinations in the small city. Additionally, the rural transit district has agreed to serve the new library site with a bus stop directly in front of the new library, to include a covered bench.

A distinctive building, constructed on the new site, will be a highly visible landmark and a source of community pride.

D. Parking



Parking for the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library is limited to unassigned, diagonal, on-street parking in the downtown area. Parking slots in the downtown do fill up, which presents parking problems for library visitors, but because many visitors walk to the facility the problem has not been a pressing one on a day-to-day basis. However, when the neighborhood library offers a program, parking is a significant problem. There is some additional space at the rear of the library building, but because there is no security lighting

in the area, people are discouraged from parking there due to safety concerns. Library staff would prefer to use this parking, but in the evenings they must park in one of the public, on-street spaces, further limiting patron parking spaces.

Children and some adults bicycle to the library, but there is no bicycle parking available. Bicyclists frequently lean their bikes against the library storefront windows, or prop/lay them on the sidewalk, which presents public safety and security problems.

E. Restrooms and Water Fountains

The only restroom in the leased facility is located off of a storage room at the far rear of the building. It is a single, tiny, non-ADA compliant facility shared by the staff and the

public. In order to use the restroom, library visitors must ask permission to use the facilities, get directions, and then pass through the staff area, and a storage room to reach the restroom. There is no water fountain available in the library for either patrons or staff use.

Anytime that library-sponsored programs are scheduled, the lack of restroom facilities presents a very significant problem for children, parents and library staff.

In addition to being highly inconvenient, the single restroom is completely out of the staff's visual control, and is located immediately adjacent to an unsecured back exit, creating a variety of security issues.

F. Noise

The Orange Cove Neighborhood Library is essentially one open space, until it changes levels at the rear of the building, where a staff workroom has been established. All activities for adults, seniors, teens and children must take place in the one, crowded room. During the needs assessment process, community seniors complained of the noise levels in the library.

Day-to-day activity at computers and reading tables, and in book stacks, produces a constant level of noise that is not conducive to study, relaxation or concentration. The ceilings are high and open, adding to noise problems. The HVAC system includes a large, noisy, exposed plenum that was added at some point in the building's history to help distribute heat.

Noise levels in the library are critically aggravated anytime that a program or event is introduced into the space.

G. Functionality and Efficiency

As previously noted, the size and layout of the leased facility does not permit appropriate zoning of spaces. All services, for seniors, adults, teens and children are located in overlapping space. Book shelving, paperback racks, user seats and service areas are all arranged in space that is too small. There is a clear sense of overcrowding, and traffic patterns are awkward. Aisle widths are less than 36" in some areas. Any sort of minimal privacy for circulation transactions or reference questions is impossible.

The Orange Cove Neighborhood Library has only one staff person, whose duties include working with the public at the service desk and also accomplishing back-of-house duties. Due to the awkward layout of the building and a floor level change that limits public access, the service desk and the staff workroom are, by necessity, located at opposite ends of the building. This greatly reduces staff efficiency, and also forces the staff person to add considerably to the clutter around the service desk in order to make good use of her time.

The leased space is not energy efficient. Constructed in 1944, it is a concrete and plaster structure with no insulation. The only windows are located along the storefront

and are single-paned. A lack of windows makes the library dark. The ceiling is high, making lighting treatments difficult and resulting in insufficient light at reader seats and in the stacks.

The HVAC system is inadequate and works sporadically, and a large, noisy, exposed plenum was added at some point in the building's history to help distribute heat. There is no air-conditioning in the library, in a city where summer temperatures routinely register in the upper 90s and above. During the rainy season the roof has leaks that threaten the collections.

H. ADA Access

There are no ADA accessible restrooms in the library.

Stack aisles are narrow, sometimes less than 36", and by necessity, furnishings crowd the paths of travel. None of the general seating or public furniture is wheelchair accessible, including the public computer stations.

The back 43% (1,066 sq. ft.) of the building has floor level changes. This effectively precludes using close to half of the building for public services. Ramps do connect the varying floor levels, but they do not have handrails and are not ADA compliant.

The staff workroom and defacto lounge are located in the raised area of the building, which is not ADA accessible, so staff with physical disabilities would not be able to work effectively in the library.

The library is not an easy place for users with disabilities to navigate. Due to overcrowding it is difficult, and in some areas impossible, to maneuver a wheelchair.

I. Safety and Security

Library staff and the community perceive the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library as being safe and secure, and statistically, Orange Cove has a low crime rate. However, there has been at least one break-in at the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library and the back entrance shows evidence of an attempt made to cut a hole in the back door. The doors have single lock systems, which are not secure and the single-pane storefront windows present security concerns.

The restroom, which is outside of visual control, is adjacent to the rear exit, which presents security issues for library staff and materials. There is no outdoor lighting at the rear of the building, so library staff are required to use one of the on-street parking spaces.

In the new facility it will be important to design the library with safety concerns in mind, using all reasonable planning and lighting techniques to avoid future problems with real or perceived safety and security issues.

VII. Space Needs Assessment

A. Introduction and Spaces Summary

The service area for the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library includes 8,767 residents, and is projected to grow to 14,000 residents by the year 2020.

A facility of 9,672 gross square feet is needed to meet the library service needs of the current and future service area residents over the next twenty years.

The spaces summarized below will enable the neighborhood library to provide balanced and appropriate collections, seating and computing, tailored to meet the needs of the Orange Cove Community. Collections will respond to the interests of the many Spanish speakers in the community, while also meeting the need for English language literacy support. The space will accommodate services for seniors, adults, teens and children.

On weekdays, to meet the special needs of school-age children, the new library will incorporate a Homework Center in the Multi-Purpose Community Room during after-school hours. The Homework Center will be a joint venture project, planned and implemented cooperatively with the Kings Canyon Unified School District to meet the education goals of the School District and the education support goals of the Library. To meet the special needs of parents and other adults in this community, where most people do not have home computers or Internet access, the new library will include a Technology Learning Lab where residents can develop computer skills and a stronger understanding of the role of computer technology in today's schools, homes and workplaces.

The new facility will include a Multi-Purpose Community Room to support a variety of library and community sponsored programs to foster reading readiness in young children and to enrich the lives of area residents. A small Group Study, Conference and Tutoring Room will provide a flexible venue for small groups to study and brainstorm, adult literacy and other tutoring needs, and space for small group meetings.

The new library will support the arts and culture by including display space for two and three-dimensional art of interest to the community, to include displays that celebrate the history of the Orange Cove Community and the Hispanic heritage of most of its residents.

**Table 22
Spaces Summary**

Space		Square Feet
1.1	Public Entrance/Lobby/Community Information	214
1.2	Materials Return Slots	in GSF
1.3	Materials Handling and Sorting	261
1.4	Multi-purpose Community Room & Homework Center	835
1.4.1	Multi-purpose Community Room Storage	177
1.5	Technology Learning Lab	368
1.6	Group Study, Conference & Tutoring Room	150
1.7	Public Restrooms	in GSF
2.1	Circulation Service Desk	308
2.2	Express Checkout	63
2.3	Reserve/hold shelves, open stacks for self-service	41
2.4	Copy Center	94
2.5	Information Service Desk	122
3.1	New Books Browsing & Art/Culture Display	95
3.2	Adult & Teen Audiovisual Media	143
3.3	Adult & Teen Reference Collection	335
3.4	Adult Public Access Computers	328
3.5	Adult Circulating Books	550
3.6	Community Living Room--Magazines/Newspapers/Quiet Study	448
3.7	Teen Area	549
4.1	Children's Reference, New/Display Books & Magazines	62
4.2	Children's & Family Public Access Computers	176
4.3	Children's Circulating Books	629
4.4	Children's Audiovisual Media Collections	88
4.5	Children's Picture Books & Parenting Collection	470
5.1	Staff Office	110
5.2	Library Staff Work Area	231
5.3	Supplies & Storage	136
5.4	Staff/Deliveries Entrance	in GSF
5.5	Staff Lounge	213
6.1	Telecommunications Room	in GSF
6.2	Custodial Closet & Supplies	60
6.3	Mechanical Room/Building Maintenance	in GSF
Total Assignable Square Feet:		7,254
Total GSF of branch facility @ 75% net-to-gross		9,672

Table 23
Square Footage Conversion Factors

Item	Conversion Factor
Shelving:	
Shelving, single-sided section, 3' wide	10.3 SF/section
Shelving, display, reference or children's picture books	11.25 SF/section
Shelving, oversized (Q)	12.20 SF/section
Volumes per Linear Foot:	
Books, adult/teen, fiction and nonfiction	8 volumes/Linear Foot
Books, reference	6 volumes/Linear Foot
Books, new and display	3 volumes/Linear Foot
Books, Spanish language	10 volumes/Linear Foot
Books, graphic novels/photovonnellas	16 volumes/Linear Foot
Books, large print	8 volumes/Linear Foot
Books, oversized (Q)	6 volumes/Linear Foot
Books, paperback, on spinners inset into standard shelving	16 volumes/Linear Foot
Books, children's fiction and nonfiction	12 volumes/Linear Foot
Books, children's easy books	16 volumes/Linear Foot
Videos	10 volumes/Linear Foot
DVDs, compact discs in AV browse bins	25 volumes/Linear Foot
Audiobooks	8 volumes/Linear Foot
Magazines, current display	1 title/Linear Foot
Newspapers, current display	1 title/Linear Foot
Reader Seating:	
@ 1-place carrels	36 SF/seat
@ 4-place table, rectangular	25 SF/seat
@ 4-place table, round	22 SF/seat
@ 6-place table, rectangular	25 SF/seat
@ 4-place toddler size table	22 SF/seat
@ lounge chair	35 SF/seat
@ lounge chair, 2-place	45 SF/seat
Community Room Seating	12.00 SF/seat
Equipment:	
Public access computer, sit-down, 1 seat	35 SF/workstation
Public access computer, sit-down, 2 seats	45 SF/workstation
Public access computer, stand-up	18 SF/workstation
Printer, networked	12 SF/scanner
Scanner, networked	12 SF/scanner
Photocopier	40 SF/copier
Self check-out station	45 SF/station
Staff office system workstations, 6'x8'	60 SF/workstation

B. Collections and Shelving

Overall Collection

Books and audiovisual collections numbering a total of 32,200 items are recommended to serve the users of the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library. These volumes will provide 2.3 volumes per capita to the 2020 service population. Current collections provide only 1.6 items per capita. Planning guides such as the *Wisconsin Library Building Project Handbook* or Joseph Wheeler's *Practical Administration of Public Libraries*, suggest 2.75-3.0 volumes per capita for service areas of this size. However, shared, system-wide borrowing, Orange Cove circulation patterns and Fresno County Public Library strategic planning suggest that 2.3 volumes per capita is an appropriate collection size.

In *The Heart of the Community: Its Public Library: Meeting Library Needs for Fresno County Residents: 2002-2020*, Fresno County Public Library established standard collection sizes based on local populations. System-wide established standards are 1.3 items per capita for libraries serving urban areas and 2.3 items per capita for libraries serving rural communities. The higher per capita materials ratio for rural areas was established to insure that residents with less access to public transportation would have adequate access to broad and deep collections throughout the county.

Approximately 22% of the collections, other than periodicals, will be in Spanish. Most literate adults in the community read Spanish better than they do English. However, both children and parents who participated in the community needs assessment, spoke to the fact that while school-aged children speak both Spanish and English, they are taught to read and write in English. Consequently, library collections for this statistically young community should be balanced to meet both the Spanish and English reading needs of adults and seniors and the largely English language reading needs of younger readers and upcoming generations. In the area of periodicals, a larger percentage, 31% of resources will be in Spanish, to encourage recreational reading in the community.

Audiovisual collections are planned at 15% of overall collections. Collections will be available in both English and Spanish, and it is expected that the community will use media materials for both entertainment and education. Materials for children will include bi-lingual A-V kits. Input from area educators showed that exposure to media in the English language can be helpful for young Spanish speaking children, who can “tune” to the sounds of English before they enter school. To support access to the audiovisual collections, the neighborhood library will include A-V listening/viewing stations in the new building.

Collections for adults and seniors will be shelved on full-height sections measuring 78” or 84”. Base shelves will not be used initially, but will be available as the collections grow. Teen collections, which amount to 15% of the collections, will be shelved on 66” high units. Children’s collections will be housed in appropriately low shelves—66” for most collections, and 42” for picture books and materials for young children.

Planning assumptions regarding collection shelving are shown above in Table 23, Square Footage Conversion Factors and extensively in *Appendix E*, which includes the

number of volumes of each collection type, assumptions regarding circulation, the number of volumes per linear foot, and aisle width.

1. Books

The book collection is recommended at 27,300 volumes, with 43% (11,800 volumes) of the collection being allocated to children's materials, 42% (11,500 volumes) to adults and seniors, and 15% (4,000 volumes) to books for teens.

Some emphasis on juvenile collections will serve the needs of this community where more than 43.7% of the population is under 19 years of age, between 56%-66% of children enter school as English Language Learners, and where language and literacy barriers pose a threat to children's academic success.

For young children and their families, the neighborhood library book collections will likely provide their main source of early childhood reading materials. A strong selection of board books, picture books and easy readers will improve reading readiness for pre-school-age children, and will help to establish strong reading habits and experience for children in the early elementary school years. A portion of these books for young children will be Spanish-English bilingual books to help families learn together and to preserve fluency in native Spanish as well as building fluency in English.

School-age children and teens will need access to a strong reference collection and a broad collection of nonfiction to support their schoolwork, as well as fiction for academic and recreational reading. Area school libraries vary in collection strength, and high school students are currently bused to a school outside of the service area, giving them little opportunity to use their school library. Students will rely on their neighborhood library for after-school, evening and weekend service. Relatively low academic performance indicators for Orange Cove students, as well as community input from students and parents point to the need for strong library collections to support student needs and interests. The circulating book collection will be selected with school curricula in mind but it will also broadly support students' intellectual curiosity. Students are expected to draw on all collection levels for their needs—children's materials, teen materials and adult resources. As part of the joint-use project for the library, book collections for students will include an up-to-date collection of core subject textbooks for use in the library to support homework assignments.

Adults and seniors will use materials in both English and Spanish, and will likely use materials from the children's and teen collections in addition to adult materials. The collections will support a variety of reading abilities and will include high-interest novellas and photonovellas (graphic novels in Spanish). In nonfiction, all subject areas will be represented—how-to, history, cultural and historic materials relating to the community, biography and self-help. Adults and seniors will need practical nonfiction titles to help them with English language development, marketable job skills, health and well-being issues, etc. Because unemployment is a persistent problem in the community, adults will need to have a strong collection of career materials, and resources about education program choices. Oversized books that provide visual as well as reading interest will be included. Fiction collections will be broad and up to date with a substantial collection of books in Spanish. Multi-ethnic authors will be well represented. Literacy materials in English and Spanish, that address the need for literacy in the areas of basic English

reading and writing, and basic math skills will be important in the Orange Cove Community. A collection of large print materials will also be included for seniors and others in the community whose vision may be limited.

Books in the new facility should be thoughtfully “marketed” to the community with generous aisles and attractive and interesting displays that provide a positive bookstore-style browsing experience.

2. Audiovisual Media

4,900 items, or 15% of overall library collections in the new library, are allocated to audiovisual resources, to include videos, DVDs, CDs, CD-ROMs, computer software, books on tape/CD, and children's AV kits, and other formats as they develop. Audiovisual media will be selected in both Spanish and English, and DVDs will be selected with multiple language tracts whenever possible.

Exposure to the sounds and nuances of language can significantly improve the development of English language abilities, which is a significant need in the Orange Cove service area. This media exposure will be important for young children to help prepare them for language learning and reading when they enter school, and also for adults who are learning to speak English.

Audiovisual collections will also be used for pleasure and entertainment. In this community where there are essentially no venues for the arts, it will be important for residents to be able to view films and listen to music in their homes and in the library. Audiovisual collections will provide important access to media arts in Orange Cove.

Audiovisual materials will also serve as educational resources for students, adults and seniors who will expand their learning through computer software, CD-ROM programs and audiobooks. In addition to entertainment videos and DVDs, the collection will also include informational, documentary and how-to programs in these formats.

For those who do not have access to audiovisual equipment, the library will provide in-house listening/viewing stations.

3. Cultural Diversity

As noted previously in this study, the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library service area residents are 87.7% Hispanic of any race.

The library collections for this community need to reflect the heritage and language of the majority of area residents. While English language learning and literacy are an important goal for many, Spanish-speakers will need to have materials in their native language. There is also likely to be considerable demand for English language materials relating to Hispanic cultures.

Approximately 22% of the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library collections, other than periodicals, will be in Spanish. Most literate adults in the community read Spanish better than they do English. However, both children and parents who participated in the community needs assessment, spoke to the fact that while school-aged children speak

both Spanish and English, they are taught to read and write only in English. Consequently, library collections for this statistically young community should be balanced to meet both the Spanish and English reading needs of adults and seniors and the largely English language reading needs of younger readers and upcoming generations.

In the area of periodicals, a larger percentage, 31% of resources, will be in Spanish to encourage recreational reading in the community.

4. Magazines and Newspapers

A total of 115 magazine and newspaper titles are recommended. More than 31% of the titles will be Spanish language subscriptions to encourage adult recreational reading. Because the adult educational attainment level is quite low in the service area, and income levels do not allow for multiple periodical subscriptions, many members of the community have not developed a regular reading habit. To help foster reading habits the library will have a good selection of newspapers and magazines in both English and Spanish.

Current periodical issues for adults will be displayed in a Community Living Room area of the library. Attractively displayed periodicals and comfortable furnishings should make this a well-used collection. It is expected that community seniors will be heavy users of these collections, especially since the new senior center will be located very near the new library. One year's worth of periodical back issues will be maintained for in-house use and checkout.

Students will no doubt rely on periodicals for current event studies. However, while the library's periodical titles are intended to meet recreational and study needs, they are not expected to serve as long-term research resources. Online research databases offered by the library are expected to meet this need.

C. Reader Seats

The service population of the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library needs a variety of library seating for reading, study, personal research and school-related work. A total of 51 open access library seats are recommended, with 24 seats in adult/senior areas, 6 for teen users, and 21 seats in the children's section of the library. This will provide 3.64 seats per every 1,000 of population in the year 2020, which essentially meets the guideline of 3.7 seats per thousand for communities of 14,000, found in Wheeler and Goldhor's *Practical Administration of Public Libraries*. Because this community has a high number of persons per household, it is important to provide this generous level of seating so that residents have a quiet, peaceful place to read and study, which may not be available to them at home. In addition to open access seats, six seats are available in a Group Study, Conference and Tutoring Room (6 seats). Seating will include chairs at tables, study carrels, lounge seats, versatile lounge seats with tablet arms and 2-place lounge seats in the children's area to encourage parents and children reading together.

The Orange Cove Library will be a small, neighborhood facility. It will not accommodate large reading rooms and other specialized seating often found in large libraries. So

while it will be important to provide a generous number of seats for the community, it will also be important for the seating areas to be multi-functional. The Orange Cove Neighborhood Library has a marketing mission, so seating styles, fabrics and locations should help to market the library as an appealing, comfortable destination.

All reader seating, both in open access areas and special use areas, should be wired (hard-wired or wireless) to accommodate user-provided or library-provided laptop computers and other handheld computing devices.

Appendix D is a listing of specific seating recommendations for each type of seating and reader seat distribution.

Seating types to meet community needs include the following:

1. General Seating

Four-place tables and chairs are used in the general stack areas of the neighborhood library. In the Community Living Room section of the library, where readers will browse magazines and newspapers and settle in for a variety of quiet reading needs, both tables with chairs, and lounge seats are available. The library's study carrels will also be located here so that quiet, focused reading and study seats can be combined with other, more casual quiet reading seats.

Seats at tables require 25 square feet per seat (22 square feet at round tables), and lounge seats 35 square feet per seat in accordance with *Building Blocks For Planning Functional Library Space*, Scarecrow, 2001.

2. Study Seating

On weekdays the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library is used heavily as an after school study space. Throughout the day, adults use the library for their personal study and reading needs. Statistically, area residents live in crowded quarters, as shown in the demographic section of this study, so it can be difficult to find space and quiet for focused study or reading in the home.

Included in the neighborhood library's seating plan are four, one-place carrels. The carrels will serve as a Quiet Reading and Study area located within the calm, focused atmosphere of the Community Living Room. In addition to these seats, it is expected that general reader seats in all areas of the library will be used for study needs. In the teen area, planning calls for two, flexible lounge seats with tablet arms that swing in for study needs. A Group Study, Conference and Tutoring Room is planned with a six-place table so that small groups of students of any age can collaborate and brainstorm. This space will also be used for tutoring.

The Multi-Purpose Community Room will be opened up as a Homework Center after school on weekdays. Folding tables will be set up and stacking chairs will be placed at the tables. This area will include the services of a homework assistant during peak hours.

All reader seating, both in open access areas and special use areas, should be wired (hard-wired or wireless) to accommodate user-provided or library-provided laptop computers and other handheld computing devices.

Seats at study carrels require 32 square feet per carrel, study seating at tables require 25 square feet per seat (22 square feet at round tables) in accordance with *Building Blocks For Planning Functional Library Space*, Scarecrow, 2001.

3. Children's Seating

Children's seating is planned for very young children, elementary, and early middle school-age children. Four-place and two-place table and chair seating will be available in the children's area for study and general reading. These tables, as well as tables in the picture book area, will also be used by children to explore the library's learning tools, toys and games.

In the picture book section of the children's area, toddler seating will be included so that the library's youngest visitors can get into and out of chairs on their own. Parents and children, or older siblings and children will use a 2-place lounge seat where they can enjoy reading aloud together. In this community where reading readiness is an educational concern, this will be an important seating area to support young children and families.

Children's seating at tables will require 25 square feet per seat, and toddler seats will need 22 square feet per seat. Floor seating, assuming carpeting and cushioned seats for a cozy space, can be planned at 10 square feet per seat.

4. Teen Seating

Most communities need library space that teens can call their own, but such a space may be especially important in the Orange Cove service area, where young people have very few places to go for educational and recreational interests or to spend time with friends.

Six reader seats are planned for the teen area of the neighborhood library. Older students of middle and high school age are expected to be the main users of seating in this area. Table and chair seating is available for student work and is planned for a round table to promote collaboration. Flexible lounge seating with a tablet arm that swings in for study needs is also planned here and should be selected in a style that feels welcoming and comfortable to members of this age group who may want to scoot the chairs around and sprawl/slouch in them.

Table seats at round tables will require 22 square feet per seat, and lounge seats will need 35 square feet of space as per *Building Blocks For Planning Functional Library Space*, Scarecrow, 2001.

D. Technology

As noted previously in this study, the Orange Cove service area is a prime example of the “digital divide”—where people at lower socio-economic levels have less access to technology and so fall further and further behind. In 2002, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Economics and Statistics Administration published *A Nation Online: How Americans Are Expanding Their Use of the Internet*. The study, based on U.S. Census Bureau statistics, is a survey of approximately 57,000 households and more than 137,000 individuals across the United States, providing information that is among the most broad-based and reliable ever gathered on Internet, broadband, and computer connectivity. Extensive data is available through the study, and key findings reinforce local demographic information and anecdotal input gathered for the Orange Cove service area.

- The study reports that people with a lower income and lower education attainment do not use computers or the Internet as much or as often as people with higher income or those who have attained a higher level of education.
- People of Hispanic origin use computers less often than non-Hispanic Whites or Asians.

In the Orange Cove service area, where 87.7% of the population is Hispanic of any race, where the median per capita income is \$7,897 dollars per year and where 70.5% of people age 25 and older have less than a high school education, the NTIA study shows important parallels.

Technology is integral to today’s library services in all communities. In the service area of the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library, technology is even more critical due to population demographics. The economic poverty of the area means that most homes are without personal computers, or Internet access. The neighborhood library will need to provide generously for public computer stations and computer literacy training, both to meet community demand and to assist in bridging the “digital divide” that exists here. To respond to technology needs, the library will provide a Technology Learning Lab where community residents can work with qualified instructors to learn both very basic computer skills, and also more advanced, intermediate skills. Classes will be available in both Spanish and English.

For the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library, a total of 28 public computers are recommended—18 open access computers, and 10 computers in the Technology Learning Lab. This amounts to one open access computer for every 778 people, based on the 2020 projected population figure of 14,000. Although there are no recognized planning standards for the number of computers that should be available in public libraries, planning practice suggests approximately one computer for every 700-1,600 people served. Because Orange Cove service area residents are less likely to have home computers than are residents of many other communities, the library will provide generous access. In addition to stationary, hard-wired computer stations, a self-contained, 12 unit laptop computer caddy will be included in planning for the library. These library-owned laptop computers will be used to enhance the availability of technology in the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library.

Because it is difficult to predict how technology will continue to evolve, the new facility will need to include hard-wired or wireless service at all reader seats for maximum future flexibility in the area of public access technology.

Computer workstations recommended for the library include stations with one seat in the adult area, a combination of one-seat and two-seat stations in the teen area, and two-seat stations in the children's area of the library. Two chairs at a single computer station can facilitate shared learning, so that young friends can collaborate and parents and children can practice computer skills side-by-side. Single chair computer workstations will require 34 square feet per station, and stations with two user chairs will require 44 square feet per station. A range of 30-36 square feet per computer workstation (single seat) is recommended in *Building Blocks For Planning Functional Library Space*, Scarecrow, 2001.

E. Staff Office and Workspace

The present neighborhood library has 1.0 FTE staff. Positions include a full-time Library Assistant II at .90 FTE and a part-time custodian at .10 FTE.

The chart below shows anticipated staff levels for the new library. Projected staffing is approximate at this time, and subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors. As per the chart below, the new facility will require doubling the number of staff people. Budgetary realities and restrictions are such that even when the neighborhood library staff is doubled, the level of staffing will be minimal. Therefore, the facility is planned to make efficient use of limited staff time, and user self-reliance through RFID technology, open holds/reserves and express checkout equipment.

Bi-lingual staff will be needed to meet anticipated increases in user demand for assistance, additional support for after-school homework assistance, increases in materials handling of the larger collections, and increased training/programming.

Table 24
Staff Projections

FTE	Position	# of people	Workstation
1.0	Librarian (bi-lingual)	1	Private office
1.0	Library Assistant II (bi-lingual)	1	Modular workstation
.25-.38	Shelver/Page	1	N/A
Not yet determined	Custodian	1	N/A
2.25-2.38 Total + custodian		4	1 office/1 modular

A private office will be provided for staff use. Rather than being an assigned office, the space will be used by staff as needed to fulfill personnel and public relations responsibilities. Because a project goal is to use valuable space for public needs, the Staff Office will be a modest size—110 square feet. Also in keeping with this goal, staff will use the public restroom, so the building will not include a staff restroom.

Other shared staff workspace in the new facility will include a workstation, an adjacent Materials Handling area and a variety of shared office tools/equipment. A modular

workstation will meet the needs of the Library Assistant when she/he is not working with the public at the circulation desk or in other areas of the library. This workstation will need to be 6'x8' + 25% circulation space, or 60 square feet.

The library Shelver/Page will work in the public areas of the library or in the Materials Handling area. An adjustable height workstation is planned here (45 square feet) to function as a backup returns station in case of problems with the automated handling system.

F. Programming and Meeting Room Space

The need for improved reading readiness and family literacy makes programming an essential part of library services to children and families in the service area. Comfortable, flexible space will be needed for a variety of programs such as storytelling, music, arts and crafts, theatre, puppetry, and poetry.

Because there are so few recreational and educational venues for teens in Orange Cove, well-planned, age appropriate library programs are likely to be popular. Programming space is needed to support teen focused programs such as a poetry café, a job or educational fair, or contemporary music exploration.

Adults and seniors in the service area will appreciate being able to attend informational programs at the library. Community members suggested a variety of topics that may be of interest, including area history, agriculture related seminars and cultural programs that celebrate the community's largely Mexican and Salvadoran heritage.

The Orange Cove Community needs a shared space for programs for children, teens, adults and seniors. To meet this need, a 60-seat Multi-Purpose Community Room is recommended for the facility. People using the room will have access to both stacking chairs that can be arranged auditorium style, or to folding tables with stacking chairs drawn up to them. In addition to programming functions, this room will be opened up after school so that it can function as a joint venture Homework Center. The Multi-Purpose Community Room should include hard-wired and wireless service to accommodate the use of laptop computers and other hand-held computing devices. Wiring will also be required to supply power and data access for projection and multimedia presentation equipment to enhance learning.

Building Blocks For Planning Functional Library Space, Scarecrow, 2001, suggests 10-12 square feet per seat in a community room. Planning for the new facility shows these seats at 12 square feet each.

Flexible, small group space is needed in the new library. Modern curricula place an increased emphasis on collaborative learning, so space is needed to accommodate group study and brainstorming. Currently the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library supports middle school and high school independent study students and their tutors, who meet in the library. They will appreciate having a room that will provide private space for them to work. A study room will also support one-on-one literacy tutoring and general subject tutoring for students. Small community groups will appreciate having access to space for meetings and conferences.

It is recommended that a small, flexible Group Study, Conference and Tutoring Room, to accommodate up to six students (or others) working together, be included in the new facility. As usual with table and chair seating, 25 square feet per seat will be needed.

As in other seating and gathering spaces, the Group Study, Conference and Tutoring Room will need to have hard-wired and/or wireless voice and data access.

G. Non-assignable Space

Based on this study, a new neighborhood library facility of 9,672 gross square feet is recommended. Of that figure, 7,254 square feet are assigned to specific needs and functions—collections, seating, computing, programming, staff workspace.

In addition to assigned square footage, it is necessary to plan for unassigned space to accommodate wall thickness, circulation space, restrooms, mechanical systems, etc. For this facility, 25% of the gross square footage, or 2,418 square feet, is recommended for unassigned square footage. The ratio of assigned to unassigned square footage follows guidelines set forth in *Building Blocks For Planning Functional Library Space*, Scarecrow, 2001.

**Orange Cove Neighborhood Library
Fresno County Public Library
Community Library Planning Meeting
Held at the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library
June 26, 2003, 6:30 p.m.**

Members of the Public Present: Inez Durham, Becky Scroggins, Carol Doerksen (school representative), Bertha Del Bosque, Jessie Hernandez, Glenda Hill, Nancy Singer, Jim Gordon, Susan Ashton, Sue Jones, Lorena Johnson, Randy and Sandy Sheer, Manuel Ferriera and two unidentified men from the community who came in after the meeting had started.

Library Staff Members Present: Karen Bosch Cobb (KBC), Terry Sterling, Sandra Kuykendall, and Suzanne Hurliman and Gail Dahl (extra help staff and members of the community)

The meeting was facilitated by Karen Bosch-Cobb and Terry Sterling.

1-2. Welcome and Introductions-everyone introduced him/her self and gave names-two additional people came in late, but their names were not given.

3. Adoption of Agenda-KBC

4. Planning for the Future-Introduction of Needs-KBC Each library is specific to each community and reflects what kinds of services the library provides to teens, children, adults and seniors.

- What services will the library provide in the future: discussion of library's service roles in the community
- Library Area Service Map for Orange Cove and surround area
- What Kinds of Materials should the library have in it: books, videos, DVDs, CDs, etc.
- Collection/Staff language needs
- What kinds of services the library should provide to teens, children, adults and seniors
- How much space is needed for each of these elements.

5. Description of the service and space issues-KBC explained the elements that helped the Library determine the size of a new library building elements, what we call our "library building blocks" and noted that a library is built from the inside out.

- Population projections: Projected populations help determine the number of books and other library materials. The Library is using the projection of 10,344. Discussion followed that suggested this number is too low and needs to be increased. The City of Orange Cove is projecting a population range of 14,316 as a low and 23,208 as a high for 2025. Terry Sterling will follow up with Jim Gordon, Orange Cove Rural Renewal Community Manager, to determine a better figure.

Community Library Planning Meeting (continued)

- Collection Size-FCPL's standard for rural communities is 2.3 items per capita, this is larger than the standard number for our urban libraries because we believe more materials need to be available to residents in the smaller communities since they do not have the opportunity to visit other libraries easily.
- Computers--number and location in the library, computer lab
- Service Desk-number and location, circulation, information, self-checkout
- Meeting Room-how will the room be used, library programs, community meeting rooms, group study, one-on-one tutoring
- Delivery/Receiving and Book Return
- Copy Machine
- AV Viewing Area
- Misc. Equipment
- Readers Seating-Tables & Chairs, Study Carrels, Lounge Chairs
- Storage

Group discussion followed these elements, issues raised were:

- ❖ It is extremely important for the library to offer literacy services in Orange Cove, less than 50% of the adult population has more than a 6th grade education.
- ❖ Access to computers and instruction is needed because very few people have them in their homes.
- ❖ Homework help is needed; this is reflected by students' low API scores.
- ❖ The library needs to provide a sense of place and belonging. The library needs to include some historical perspective of the community and cultural awareness of where the community members have come from, both locally and internationally (Mexico and El Salvador).
- ❖ Community members suggested that the library will serve as a meeting place for the community-a Commons.
- ❖ A meeting room will be important to provide a place for community groups to meet, and to offer space for tutoring and homework help.
- ❖ Programs for children, teens and adults are needed because there are not many recreational opportunities in Orange Cove. Programs can also be a way to get the parents into the library; currently children usually come to the library by themselves after school.
- ❖ Because there are few recreational or adult educational opportunities in the Orange Cove community, library programs should reflect both current interests as well as offering learning opportunities.

Community Library Planning Meeting (continued)

- ❖ The school district is building two new schools-a middle school and a high school in Orange Cove, there should be an emphasis on providing collections (an especially strong Reference Collection, and information about colleges, career training and scholarships) and homework help after school, as well as offering programs and a facility that is welcoming to children and teens.
 - ❖ Collections need to reflect the community-the library needs to offer more materials in Spanish. The community is beginning to diversify, more people from the Middle East live here than in the past.
 - ❖ Because of the economics of the community the library needs to provide a strong collection of Job and Career Information for adults as well as teens.
6. Needs Assessment and Building Plan.
Terry Sterling explained how the above noted information and building blocks will be used as part of the needs assessment process and to develop the building plan and plan of service for the new library.
 7. Funding and possible locations. KBC explained the Library Bond Act Grant process and timeframe. She noted that we are going to be looking at properties located centrally in Orange Cove that are large enough to accommodate the library building and our mandated parking requirements. She asked that if anyone knew of property of at least 1.5 to 3 acres to let Sandra Kuykendall know and she would pass the information on to the library administrative staff.
 8. Set date and location for next meeting: July 31, 6:30 at the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library.

**Orange Cove Neighborhood Library
Fresno County Public Library
Open Community Meeting, 7 participants
Translator, Margarita Ruiz, from the FCPL, acted as interpreter
Victor P. Lopez Community Center
July 31, 2003, 6:00 p.m.**

The community meeting was conducted cooperatively by the staff of the Fresno County Public Library, the project architect and a representative from the Public Works Department of Fresno County.

Terry Sterling, Librarian Supervisor of Community Libraries—East. The Orange Cove Neighborhood Library project was introduced to attendees

Terry Sterling introduced the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library Project and explained the information gathering process. Ms. Sterling explained that this is a second community meeting, the first being held on June 26, 2003. She outlined the information gathering process for the needs assessment and a building program for the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library, which includes the assistance of a library planning consultant, Drew Harrington, who will be visiting Orange Cove the week of August 18th, 2003.

Karen Bosch-Cobb introduced Paul Halajian, architect. Paul worked on both the Fowler and Mendota branches. Mr. Halajian noted the importance of designing libraries from the inside out.

A handout was distributed with basic information gathered at the previous (June 2003) community meeting. It was noted that a population projection figure of 14,000 had been agreed upon based on a range of official projections. Planning for collections and services, then, will be based on a projected population of 14,000.

A discussion of needs and services followed, including estimates of library planning from the Fresno County Public Library Master Facilities Plan:

Attendees suggested the need for a large computer lab, and a large community meeting and program room. There was discussion of the importance of self-check technology to help the new library function well with a limited staff.

The public need for audiovisual stations was noted.

Attendees commented on the need for a variety of seating options, including lounge seating.

Attendees asked how the new Orange Cove Neighborhood Library is likely to compare (size wise) to branches in Caruthers and Fowler—Ms. Bosch-Cobb noted that the Orange Cove facility is likely to be larger than those branches. It might be more like the Sunnyside or Sanger Branches—attendees noted that they would like to see those branches.

Open Community Meeting Notes, July 31, 2003 (continued)

Ms. Bosch-Cobb asked if the attendees were in agreement with basic planning components and size for the new Orange Cove Neighborhood Library. Further discussion followed including projected growth rates, percentages of use by adults and children and collections that are expected to be heavily used—Reference collections are expected to be very important based on school expansion and information received from Kings Canyon Unified School District staff. The media collection is expected to grow to about 13% of the total collection.

Questions and Comments Followed:

Jim Gordon-Thank you. It's good to see all of this happening. I will go to the next City Council meeting and ask what they will give/contribute. Plus, the Service Clubs. I have spoken to several already, and seniors want to have their own space in the new OCL.

We need a physical place to go and read.

Ms. Bosch-Cobb asks if the Conference Room or the Meeting Room could be used for that.

We need to have some lounge chairs/area for "visiting."

We need use of Spanish-English Dictionaries.

Are there any large print materials in Spanish in the current library? Sandy-No, no one has requested them.

Karen Bosch-Cobb--? Perhaps senior materials in a quiet room?

Maybe we could have Bingo daily, about 40-50 people would attend.

We need tables for studying.

Would there be a Museum/History-type of area? Would there be a display cabinet? If so, it will require some square footage so that people can move around it.

We want the ability to display artwork. Library staff asks what type of artwork—2D, 3D, permanent, rotating?

The Caruthers branch has booths that look like a "soda fountain area" for the teens which are attractive and popular. Also, it has very nice window seats.

--Karen Bosch-Cobb—One or two Board (of Supervisors) members feel that Bike and Public Transportation-are very important issues.

Jim Gordon--? What should I ask the City Council for?—Parking lot, furniture, site, assistance with infrastructure....how do we press for city support—lobbying the Board of Supervisors, letters to the editor of the newspapers, seek out individuals who are looking to contribute money to the library that will enhance the community. For example, bike trails, etc.

Open Community Meeting Notes, July 31, 200 (continued)

We represent Orange Cove service clubs and the service clubs will support this library project.

Regarding the site—the more "usable" the land is, the better. The site should have low auto traffic, perhaps there are "eye sore" buildings that can be cleared away to make way for a new library site.

Who selects the building site? The County and the community will select it; there are only two sites available on Park Boulevard that meet the size requirements.

If the site is donated—that would be a good start for the grant process. —Karen Bosch-Cobb—a formal agreement has to be in place...this must be submitted with the grant.

It is important to think about the fact that we are building a new middle school and a new high school—which will be a magnet school for the sciences. Also, about 150 students in Orange Cove are home schooled. At this time all high school students are bused to Reedley each day—after the high school is built most Orange Cove students will attend school locally, and students from elsewhere will also come to Orange Cove to attend the magnet school.

It will be important for the building to be flexible over the coming years because technology changes.

The library will need to be a safe and secure place that is designed specifically for Orange Cove. Vandalism is a problem now, so we need to plan for security. Will there be a chain-link fence around the parking lot?

Actually, Orange Cove has a very low crime rate.

There should be plenty of natural light—lighting is critical.
Maybe it should be in a Mediterranean style—with tile roofs, arches and courtyard fountains like some of the other buildings in the area—notably a shopping center.

Should the library look like a shopping center?

Paul Halajian, architect, noted that as the designs develop they will be presented to the public to gather additional input, so that the design reflects the unique needs of Orange Cove.

I believe that we should be leaders in setting a certain "tone" in the community.

Here in Orange Cove we are different. "We are conservative, traditional vs. ultra modern"

Paul Halajian, architect, asks—Please tell me about the other types of buildings that are used a lot in Orange Cove.

--ALL: Presbyterian Church, St. Isadore the Farmer Catholic Church

Open Community Meeting Notes, July 31, 2003 (continued)

We should not have too much work intensive landscaping—flower pots are okay but how will we maintain the plants. (?Volunteers needed?)

The new library will need to have enough staff, how will we manage that?
FCPL admin.—We will have to see, after we hear about the grant, but we always have to be creative and we will need to think of ways to make the best use of staff and of volunteers.

The community may want to have the Library in the center (of town).

It will be important that everyone in the community understands that the public library is a free service—some come from countries where there are no public libraries or where libraries charge for services.

The city of OC is growing to the West. Issues include: Friant-Kern Canal, County Line.

Orange Cove has a lot of large, young families with few books at home and only half of the adults in Orange Cove have gone past the 6th grade.

Many children (200) are in daycare. There are two facilities, one large and one small, and 60% of parents must be in school or working.

Paul Hallajian asks—What are the "most used locations" in Orange Cove?

ALL:	Hardware Store	AC Market
	Library	Pizza Parlor
	Bank	Schools
	Post Office	Churches
	Park	

Paul Halajian asks—What's the meeting room going to do for the community? Will it be used on a nightly basis? Will it be used for lectures? ALL-No.

The bank has a meeting room that is seldom used by the community.

The Women's Clubs-most would use it (library meeting room) once a month (Kitchen needed), and the Lion's Club, American Legion, Chamber of Commerce, etc.

Open Community Meeting Notes, July 31, 2003 (continued)

We have no: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, or 4H groups, We do have Cub Scouts, though.

We would use if for adult education and for recreation activities and civic Meetings.

We need to develop more organizations for young people (teens).

Paul Hallajian asks—What do teens do in Orange Cove for fun?—cruise in cars, the new skateboard park will add to things for kids, they play baseball, soccer (not organized or league) and gym activities. There are also active church youth groups, especially at the Catholic Church.

Paul Hallajian asks—So do most young people leave Orange Cove when they grow up?—Yes, and some join the military.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m., with thanks to all for attending and participating.

**Orange Cove Neighborhood Library
Fresno County Public Library
Public Meeting
Held at the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library
October 1, 2003 6:40pm-7:50pm**

Total Community Members: 19

FCPL Staff in attendance: Karen Bosch-Cobb, Interim County Librarian, Terry Sterling, Community Libraries East Supervisor, Billy Menakaya, Librarian II (Spanish Interpreter), Aline Reed, Librarian Trainee (Note Taker), and Sandi Kuykendall, Orange Cove Staff Member (also listed as Community Member).

Architect: Paul Halajian, Taylor Group

Introduction by Terry Sterling (TS) of Fresno County Library Staff and the Project architect, Paul Halajian. Terry gave a brief overview of current progress of the project in the form of a Project Report. Items covered included the following:

- **Individual interviews conducted by Drew Harrington.
- **Data sent to Drew regarding the project.
- **Work being done on the Joint Venture Grant.
- **Information from local schools.
- **Information from Youth Services/Fresno County Library.
 - Homework Center
 - Textbook purchase to support local schools.

Terry read several comments from individuals from the ESL class & Computer Lab session at Victor Lopez Community Center. (Note: Hand out/notes available). Comments regarding community needs included:

- Literacy Tutors & Materials
- Assistance with U.S. Naturalization/Immigration paperwork
- Assistance with school assignments (Children and Adult Learners)
- Spanish-speaking Staff
- Listening Stations (both Audio & Visual)
- Spanish Language Parenting Collection//Teen Parenting Collection (English & Spanish)

TS--? What should it (the new Orange Cove Library) look like?

Comments included:

- There should be a separate area for Children that is "bright and happy."
- Father Davis felt that the library would provide "new hope for the community."

TS—There was a feeling of "expectation and expansion" from Father Davis and nearly all of the individual community members that we spoke to. Many felt that Orange Cove needs a Vocational Training Program/Center. Other comments included:

- "The library should feel like Borders or Barnes and Noble Bookstores."

Public Meeting Notes, October 1, 2003 (continued)

--"Bring the outside, indoors with a skylight or large windows (TS—a la Valley Children's Hospital)".

--"A space that would make people say 'Wow.'"

--"It should be a celebration of culture...it should welcome the Hispanic culture."

TS—Before turning the meeting over to the architects, I wanted to share with you that I have been contacted by the Orange Cove Women's Club would like to develop some local history displays. Also, the Chamber of Commerce has volunteered to provide some artwork to the new library

Question from community member:

--"Will there be T1 connection for computers in the new library?"

TS—Yes. Wireless systems will be in place.

SK--? Will we (current Orange Cove Library) be ready for Horizon? Will this happen by November 2003?

TS—You will be okay on that.

Billy M—Asks a question in Spanish.

SK—Spanish speakers WERE invited.

**A community member did respond to Billy's question in Spanish, and then spoke to the rest of us in English.

Terry introduces Project Architect, Paul Halajian (PH), who facilitates the second part of the meeting. Paul passes out colorized site plans (25 count), known as Scheme "A", showing relationships to the library and access areas—Park Boulevard, the parking lot, proposed bike path and W. Railroad Ave.; Yellow Left Corner, Scheme "B", and Scheme "C" (Unmarked plan)/Pink Left Corner.

PH—I put together some sketches, and I'd like to go over them with you. We need to talk site analysis before we get started. The most important thing to remember is that the Library should be very prominent—"a great monument." This is a great site, though a complicated one. I think that a complicated site is a good thing. For example, there are only a couple of entry and exit locations, and we envision that the shrubs will act as buffers for noise control. So, we are moving on to Design Considerations. Overall, we know that the Street Wall, will bank Park Avenue. We must maintain the street wall. The questions/issues are:

**What we do with the corner, sets the tone for the entire Library.

**Bike Path—great thing for the City...there will be access from the bike path and the street.

**Parking space—must be large enough to accommodate about 84 cars. This is a considerable amount of land, so, a large area is needed for it.

**Site—Trapezoidal shape of the land...should parking be towards the back?

Public Meeting Notes, October 1, 2003 (continued)

PH—this is a rough way of saying the building must do many things; it must:

- Relate to the street
- Relate to the corner
- Relate to the parking need of the Library.

Jim Gordon (JG)—There are Four Things that the City wants known and considered as this Library is being planned:

- 1.) Master Bike Plan—will connect each of the schools and the Library.{12/15/03}
- 2.) Plumbing Supply House—will have their changes done before the rains start.
- 3.) Senior Center—Library connection needed.
- 4.) Fruit Packing House—they are putting up a mural on one of their outside walls. It will be seen from the Library site.

Male Community Member (CM1)--? Question about the location:

- **Location?
- **Difficult to enter and exit from BOTH Park and West Railroad directions.
- **Where is the packing house on this scheme?
- **Where is the plumbing place?
(in relation to the fruit packing house?)

PH--? Traffic will be coming off Park, right?

SK—We need to discuss the problem of coming off Park.

PH-- ? Are you say there is no access from West Rail Road?

SK—Yes. You could maybe turn off W. Rail Road onto Park.

PH-- ? They could ENTER off West Rail Road, but, EXITING they could not?

SK—Yes, that's right. They need to exit off of Center (at the back of the property).

JG.—This is an issue the city may need to address.

Male Community Member #2 (CM2)—You can't enter from West Rail Road due to semi-truck traffic.

? Now, the bike path, is that behind the plumbing place?

PH—Yes.

Female Community Member (FM3)—We need prominent signs at both ends, in BOTH English and Spanish.

Public Meeting Notes, October 1, 2003 (continued)

PH—The building being more open, would help suggest what the building is. I need to hear ideas about dealing with the corner part of the site.

In Scheme “C” we deal with the corner as a developed open space. We are: Moving up the Park/Plaza, the corner as Community Meeting Room-connected to an outdoor plaza (possibly with a fountain). Also included in this plan is the following:

- **Parking towards the back.
- **Entry from Bike Path.
- **More “kid friendly”.
- **Picnic Area.
- **Shielded from the street.

It is CLEAR that the Library will have to serve many functions (Meeting Room, history archive, museum, etc). I understand that several people have mentioned they wanted “high/tall area, possibly with a lot of glass.”

The next plan, Scheme “B”, develops the idea of the corner of a Park; it includes the following:

- **A lot of shade.
- **A Park-like setting.
- **A Plaza.
- **Ability to enter from two (2) sides.
- **Meeting Room is in the back, very close to parking lot. The Meeting Room could used during non-library hours
- **The Meeting Room would have a small kitchen.

PH-- ? The questions I have about this plan are: Should the whole Library be “tall” or just the Children’s Area? Should the Bike Path be sheltered from the street, or open to the street?

Suzanne Hurlman, community member and library extra help staff member—The quieter the better. An atrium would be nice, with a skylight, you could have plants. Maybe, with a tiled area.

PH—So, you like the entry being the “big” space?

SH—Yes.

Female Community Member (FM4)—This plan has better access to the Meeting Room without having to go through the Library. But, no tall trees please...too many potential accidents. Use shrubs as buffers.

PH--?So, should the public see the Meeting Room first?

CM1—If you want the Wow”, then you should go with the Scheme “A” (Space Ship-type). That, to me, is really “on point.”

Public Meeting Notes, October 1, 2003 (continued)

Jim Gordon (JG)—Children like to climb, i.e. tree houses, rope ladders, etc. The kids should have the “big space,” like a loft-type deal.

ALL—A general murmur of disagreement on Jim’s suggestions. “Too easy for someone to get hurt, falling out of the loft.” “Children like cozy spaces; the height should be in the main part of the Library.” “Teens want a more intimate space (like booths, or cluster tables.”

Several women in the audience spoke about SAFETY ISSUES:

**Adequate lighting is very important.

**Some branches have no VISUAL access of people coming into their branch. Library staff should be able to SEE who is coming in the front/side doors.

Unknown CM—If you use all the space between Park and Center streets, you would solve your parking problem.

PH—As in the first plan? (Scheme “C”?)

Leo McKinney (LM)--? Have you considered a two story building?

CM1--? Would the Meeting Room still be in the back? How far back can you move the building itself?

PH—Don’t think of “scale,” concepts and ideas are more important at this point.

SK—(Pointing to one of the plans)—This is not a “real” road, this is an access road only. Between, Park, Center, and West Rail Road—these are real streets, here.

PH—This site is a very big piece of land.

Unknown Community Member--? Could the parking lot be split up?

TS—We are required to have the parking lot a certain size.

PH—The parking lot is 8,900 feet; it has to accommodate about 84 cars. The real question for you now is: What type of STYLE do you want the building to be?

Female Community Member—I thought we already discussed the Mission-style.

?PH--? Bell Tower vs. Clock Tower

Male Community Member(CM1)—I just want you to know that the church is having problems with leaks between the Bell Tower and the Sanctuary.

I think we still need to address the issue of the parking lot in relation to everything else (Meeting Room access, Library entrance, entering and exiting onto the surrounding streets, etc.)

Public Meeting Notes, October 1, 2003 (continued)

Karen Bosch-Cobb (KBC)—What are your preferences? Do you want a view from the street?

ALL—"We want to see books...people using the library."

KBC--? What will get Teens into the Library?

ALL—"Pizza!" "If it looks warm and inviting, people will want to come in."

SK—Keep in mind the outside lighting issues.

PH--? So this is a problem with lighting vs. Mission-style of building. You have to remember that with the Mission-style, comes reduced lighting. If we are to be true to the style design.

Female Community Member—What about an Ag-type of building, like a packing house-type thing.

PH—"Now, this I can relate to! With this you can have the high ceilings, and exposed beams, etc. I have a question: How old is Orange Cove?"

SK—The community is about 100 years old.

PH—So, that is not that long of a history. We have to ask ourselves: What is the architecture going to be about? Where are we going in the future?

Community Member--? Have you (Paul) seen the Town Plans?

PH—Yes.

Brief discussion of Orange Cove history and the different groups that moved to the area.

LM—In 1913, there were NOT a lot of Hispanics in this area, they came later.

Orange Cove Staffer—The railroad was a BIG influence around here; and people moved to the area to work for it.

Note Taker Comment: There was no anger, but Community Members DID have a difference of opinion about HOW MUCH attention should be given to the Hispanic community's wants and needs. Leo McKinney pointed out that during the Great Depression, a lot of Anglo families had the same issues that the Hispanic community faces (poverty, lack of work, discrimination—"Oakies.") There was a bit of tension on this point. Others in the audience pointed out that there are OTHER people with different ethnic backgrounds, that now live in the area: Punjabi, Hmong, etc.

Female Community Member (Spanish-speaker)—I feel that the Farm labor influence is important.

**A lot of children should be able to be proud of their library, and then maybe they would not mark it with graffiti.

Public Meeting Notes, October 1, 2003 (continued)

******The Library should also highlight who we are.

******Both the Ag background as well as the multicultural aspect.

******Kids should be proud of where they come from.

There has been a lot of negativity, but we should highlight ALL the positive aspects of living and working in Orange Cove.

LM—A mural is needed that reflects EVERYONE: Anglo (“Oakies”), Hispanics, etc.

PH—We should think about architecture that is “rooted in the world,” and not limit ourselves to one particular thing. You should be able to take the orange Cove Library, and put it in any major city, and have it look “at home.” This is what Modern architecture is about—an “International-style.”

Unknown Community Member—The kids will just put graffiti on it anyway. What kind of thing is the packing house doing with their mural?

JG—Oranges, I think. That’s what the focus is for the packing house mural.

PH--? Other insights?

Unknown Community Member--? Shouldn’t it be—Not just who they ARE, but, who they WANT to be?

Group Discussion: Poverty vs.Culture.

PH—It makes a difference when kids have access to a “state of the art” library.

Female Community Member (came in a little later to the meeting)--******“I want something that is MODERN, not just a reflection of where we have already been, i.e. Reedley College Library. We should be looking to the future. It’s fine to celebrate the different cultures (I’m Hispanic), but the kids would probably want something new, and modern-looking.

PH—So, the Library will serve many purposes. Sort of a cross between a library and a museum.

*******Cultural history collection.

TS—No, not yet.

PH—The great thing that Orange Cove has going for it, is that it is a beautiful area.

Unknown Community Member—It gets really hot out here, will having large windows be such a good idea?

PH—With Scheme “A”, the Plaza-area is covered, and that might cut some of the heat. (Space ? 29,000 sq.ft.)

Public Meeting Notes, October 1, 2003 (continued)

Community Member--? Could you put the Meeting Room in the back, and the Children's Area up front? (Cone of the space ship)?

The meeting slows down, as people start to talk in small groups.

TS—I want to thank everyone for attending tonight's meeting. The next meeting will be on November 5, 2003 (Thursday), at the same time, 6:30 p.m..

Meeting ends—7:50PM.

**Orange Cove Neighborhood Library
Fresno County Library
Public Meeting
Wednesday, November 5, 2003, 6:30 p.m.**

Members of the public in attendance: Randy Scheer, Ethel Harrelson, Carol Doerksen, Beckie Scroggins, Nancy Singer, Lorena Johnson, Bertha Del Bosque, Manuel Ferreira, Leticia Mendoza.

County Staff and presenters: Karen Bosch Cobb, Gail Dahl, Sandra Kuykendall, Terry Sterling, Jim Witte, Paul Halajian.

Terry Sterling presented a handout which noted the changes that have evolved in the building through the comments of the community including the increased need for public computers, increased readers seating, configuration of the homework center, community meeting room and conference room. Terry also reviewed the square footage of specific areas within the library, i.e. meeting & conference rooms, technology learning lab, adult, children and teen areas, collections and staff workspaces.

Paul Halajian presented the library building plan and a 3D model of the building on the site plan to show roof lines and proximity to the parking. He explained the library layout beginning with library entrance ending at the community living room. The front doors open on to Park Blvd, the bike path and the parking lot. All of the business along Park Blvd. are set very close to the street with out any set back, for the library to fit into this pattern, this building has also been set close to the street. This provides a profile to the community that allows pedestrians and drivers to see into the library as they pass the building, inviting them in. Paul covered the use of natural light in the building.

Questions were raised about the location of the restrooms, building finishes, roof lines and the location and types of windows the library will have. It was noted that about 25% of the building is considered as 'unassigned areas', which will accommodate janitor closets, some storage, restrooms, etc. There are several two-person computers in the children's area and there was discussion of the visibility of patrons in the Technology Learning Lab and it was recommended that more interior windows be added to this area of the building.

There was discussion of how the historical element will be incorporated into the building; there are a couple of walls inside and/or outside of the building that lend themselves to murals. Discussions were also had about possible plantings outside of the library—bushes, trees, herb gardens, grass. At the present time these decisions have not been completed. The building colors and textures and roof composition was discussed. Because of the shape of the building, it will stand out, so the overall color of the building can be a more neutral shade. The building will be complementary to the city's façade development plan, but will be distinctive because of its function and form.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45. The date of the next meeting was set for November 20, 6:30 at the Orange Cove Library. Paul will be bringing revised library plans.

**Orange Cove Neighborhood Library
Fresno County Library
Public Meeting
Wednesday, November 20, 2003**

(Final Meeting until February 2004)

Total count of Public Attendees: 12

(Sue Jones, Manuel Ferreira, Jose Hernandez, Laurena Johnson, Gail Dahl, Leo and Marilyn McKinney, Carol Doerkson Glenda Hill, Susan Ashton, Jim Gordon, Randy and Sandy Scheer)

Also in attendance: Karen Bosch-Cobb, Terry Sterling, Becky Matli, Aline Reed, Paul Halajaian, Joel Hernandez, and Jim Witte.

Meeting Agenda:

1. Welcome and Update
2. Library Floor Plan and Comments
3. Wrap-up

Terry explained that this was the fourth and final public meeting regarding the new library. The Needs Assessment, Plan of Service, and Tech. Plan, were all being worked on by FCL staff. Next week, the Building Plan will be worked on; things like the bike plan, and parking will be finalized. Future parking will be looked at as well. Terry and Carol Doerkson have been working on the Joint Venture Agreement. The School Board has signed off on it. We are looking at the 9th and the 16th for all documents to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors.

--? When should we begin to send out letters of support for the new Library?

--KBC: Shoot for one (1) month after we submit the paperwork to the Board. You also want to look at your lobbying strategy at that time.

Terry stated that we did get a bid on the property, with Karen adding that we needed to get it "nailed down." At this point, the meeting was turned over to Paul.

Paul had several drawings of floor plans, site plans, and visual examples of how the new library would look at different times of the day (computer-generated). Paul went over what looked to be the plans for the new Orange Cove facility. He pointed out that he had been there last week, speaking to several children and teens, about what they wanted in a new library. He was able to get a lot of ideas, and heard some very good perspectives. Paul stated that the final square footage of the library will be: 9,735 square feet, and not the 9,704 that was previously stated.

Paul was very happy about the fact that he had spoken to Wayne Nader, the bike trail designer. Nader will be e-mailing his bike trail plans to Paul, who will then be making any needed adjustments to the Orange Cove site plan. Paul explained the area for expansion: 3,300 square feet, over time. He then went on to cover the entire floor plan, point-by-point. There was emphasis on the Multi-Purpose Room/Homework Center; there are three (3) windows (3 ft. by 7.5), which will allow library staff easy viewing into the area.

Public Meeting Notes, November 20, 2003 (continued)

The Children's Area is a bit smaller, but Paul feels that the use of space works much better, now. He went on to explain the window bays, and other seating in the Children's Area. Paul then turned to the Teen Area, pointing out that he had implemented the suggestions of Drew Harrington, the consultant on this Project. The audio/visual materials for Teens had been moved closer to their area (just on the other side of the display that faces their area).

Paul continued and covered every area of the floor plan. The one area that Paul had questions about was the placing of the Staff Office. The final placement is still open for discussion. Paul had concerns about the public needing to go through another area, in order to get to the Staff Office.

Jim Gordon again inquired about using "levels" in the Children's Area. Jim inquired about a "sunken level" for reading to children. Karen stated that currently we do not have any areas like that, though we do have areas for reading to children in each branch. Karen went on to say that we do need to be mindful of ADA access and the possibilities of accidents and injuries from an area like that. Also, the raised platforms that FCL had at Clovis Branch was removed for the same reason, risk of injury to patrons.

There was a question about changing the restrooms, and adding 1 other stall to the Men's restroom, in place of 1 of the sinks. Jim Witte stated that this would pose a problem, because code requires the rooms to have an equal number of stalls and sinks in each restroom, so if he changed one restroom, he would then have to change the other. He stated that there had to be enough room inside for a wheelchair to make a complete turn. There were other questions about sound absorbency, and estimating building temperature. Paul addressed both these things, and stated that there should not be a problem with them. At the previous meeting there had been questions raised about the possibility of the room leaking. Paul noted that he had changed elements of the roofline to reflect the community's concern about leaks and he stated that the building would not leak; that there were things, simple things that could be done to even prevent the outside planters and the roof from leaking into the building.

Everyone in attendance seems very pleased with Paul's presentation. Paul did inquire about the final color for the building. Marion stated that the choices had been narrowed quite a bit, and that anything "over the top", had been ruled out. There was a question about lighting and protecting that lighting from vandals. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30PM.

There was quite a bit of discussion of the plans afterward. Important information about the site plan was revealed, including: the location of the bike rack, and its proximity to the bike path, the bike rack will be covered, and discussion about a city ordinance regarding the bike rack (no ordinance in place at this time).

**Orange Cove Neighborhood Library
Fresno County Public Library
Patron Comment Cards collected from Orange Cove Residents
May 2003-August 2003**

**Do you have suggestions for the future of library services in Fresno County?
Question/Comment**

Summary of responses

I think it is a good idea if they build a new library. I think they should have more books, computers, desks, new movies, and meeting rooms. The library could have local history so children could learn more stuff. – Ama Alcantor

There should be more computers, movies, books and CDs. I think the library should be open a little longer. –Cindy Robles

We need more books, computers, CDs and videos. – Ana Ramirez

We the people want a museum in the library. – Saul Lourdes

More books and computers. – Marylon Padilla

We want to have more books to read. – Alex Santiago

Our library is too small, there is not enough room and we need more books. Compared to Reedley Library this one is really small. –Travis Dahl

We need more computers, separate sections for kids and adults, more programs for children of all ages and at least 2 librarians full time. –Sonia Cisneros

A bigger library and we need more books and computers. More room for books. – Marisa Duran

There should be a more books and computers. There should be a bigger, better library. – Monica Duran

We need to make the library in Orange Cove bigger to have a lab (computers) and have a place where we could have a place for kids for story time, to get our library involved with our kids. –Veronica Mendenz

I think the library has to have different movies—Janette

If in the future we have a library, we should be able to hear books on tape or CD books in the library. We should have music of all different kinds. – Marisia Duran

Better, faster computer service. – unsigned

It would be cool if you guys had a book club. We could all read the same book and discuss it at meetings. – unsigned

Patron Comment Cards (continued)

That would be great to have another building. There would be more space for new books, as well as the old books, both are important. A new building means more opportunities. –Cindy Vizcarra

I want a museum in the library so I could go exploring in it. – Sylvia Sanchez

We need a larger library, the librarian needs an assistant. – Ruth Leonard

I know we could use a new library in Orange Cove. – Susan McBride

There should be at least two rooms for after school activities. – Jeremy Lee Almso

I think there should be more movies and CDs in Spanish. – Saul Torres

I would like to have lots of new books and CDs and also many computers in the new library. – Crystal Rubio

I would like to have cool meeting rooms. – Aracely Rubio

I and my granddaughter enjoy the library. Our little library is often crowded and there is no more room for materials. A larger building is needed for the growth of Orange Cove. – Donna Hill

I would like for the library to get more new books that are coming in, more updated magazines, and longer time in the computer area. – Usvey Sanchez

I would like to have the library open for more hours. -- unsigned

**Orange Cove Neighborhood Library
Fresno County Public Library
Interview: Victor P. Lopez, Mayor of Orange Cove
Victor P. Lopez Community Center
August 19, 2003, 1:00 p.m.**

Background—Mr. Lopez has been Mayor of Orange Cove for 25 years, and he served on the City Council for 5 years before running for Mayor.

Are there trends in Orange Cove that we should consider when planning a new library?

There are many projects underway to improve the quality of life in Orange Cove. We are trying to attract more diverse employers so that the town's economy is not so tied to agriculture. When there is a bad freeze or other weather problems it can have a very negative impact on employment and the well being of our citizens.

In September of 2003 we will be breaking ground for a new, 38,000 square foot park to include a state-of-the-art skateboard area, a small lake/pond and plenty of family areas. The children of Orange Cove helped to plan the skateboard park.

A new Middle School is being built across the street from the Lopez Center—it is expected to be completed by next fall (2004), and a new high school is planned for the adjacent site. We will break ground on the high school in November, with a projected completion of fall 2005. The high school will be a magnet school with an engineering focus and we believe that it will attract students from surrounding communities.

We are in negotiations to develop a shopping center on Anchor Avenue. There is considerable interest and we are seeking a cornerstone store. One store that has shown serious interest is Gigante, a large, discount grocery chain out of Mexico.

We have a program underway to improve the look of our main street—it is a façade building plan. Local merchants and the City are splitting the cost (50%-50% split) of adding updated, attractive facades to the downtown storefronts. The new library should reflect this new style in the downtown, so that it looks like it is part of our town.

We have a number of new housing developments that are either completed or under construction. We plan these with Internet service for home computers and the developments are planned so that they are good, safe, attractive places to live and to raise a family.

How can a new library in Orange Cove help the City to achieve its goals? What library services seem most important for the residents of Orange Cove?

The school district (King's Canyon Unified School District) tells me that 50% of our children cannot speak English when they go to school. That is much too high. The library could help to expose children to books and reading and language.

Adults in the community need literacy training to improve their English speaking and writing skills too. Someplace where tutors can help people learn would be good.

Victor P. Lopez Interview (continued)

We have programs at the Center (Victor P. Lopez Community Center) to train and educate people. There is a program to train farm workers to be providers of preschool education and to go on to teacher training. The library could cooperate with the Center to work with these adult students.

There is a computer lab in the Center and we work with many people who need to have computer skills and computer training. We are unable to accommodate everyone and it would be helpful if the library could also offer computer training.

Our children and families need education, so any way that the library can help people with their education and help children to do well in school will be important.

Households here are often crowded. That and language problems make it hard for children to study. The new library should have places for children to study—quiet, safe places.

Families like to do things together here, so the library will need to be a place that the whole family will want to go.

We need to have more books and films that are in Spanish and/or are bi-lingual. Also, we need to have staff in the library who speak Spanish so that they can help people.

Any other comments?

Our library should be better—it has to be a better place to go if it is going to help the community to move ahead.

**Orange Cove Neighborhood Library
Fresno County Public Library
Interview with Mary Media, Learning Director
Citrus Head Start Program Center, Orange Cove
August 19, 2003, 2:30 p.m.**

Mission—The Citrus Head Start program works to provide preschool aged children and families with high quality child development programs that create opportunities and prepare children to be successful in school.

Following an explanation of the needs assessment for the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library.....How can the new library help you and Orange Cove families achieve your goals?

There is a bookmobile from the Fresno County Public Library that comes and gives stories and lets us borrow books. That has been very popular. Parents were very excited about that service and they liked to help out in little ways during the story times. It would be good for the new library to have children's programs and to loan us books to read with the children here, like that program does.

The children need exposure to language and literature, programs with music, songs, puppets, plays and stories are important.

If the library had programs for young children, we would take our students to them.

Our families need to have plenty of books and audiovisual materials that are bi-lingual so that parents can read with/to their children and the whole family can improve their English language skills. They also need plenty of magazines in Spanish—that will draw parents to the library.

Very few people here have computers at home. They need to have access to computers in the library, and many will need to have training too. Training will have to be in the evenings or on the weekends because both parents work in most families.

Sometimes when I encourage parents to take their children to the library they tell me that they are worried about books being lost or damaged—the fees are very high to replace the library books and many people cannot afford this if something happens to a book. It would be good if there were more inexpensive, paperback books that would not be so expensive to replace. Some parents tell me that they won't take their children to the library because they might have to pay for a lost/damaged book.

There may be a homework center planned for the new library—do you think that a homework center would be used and useful? What ages should it serve, what will it need to have to be successful?

Many parents don't speak English, so it is hard for them to help their children with their schoolwork. Also, parents work until 5:00 or 6:00 p.m. A homework center for children in grades K-5 would be excellent. It would need to have basic school supplies and books and other curriculum materials. Students would need to have someone to help them get started and to answer questions.

Mary Media Interview (continued)

Are you aware of trends in Orange Cove that we should know about?

The schools are working hard to increase parent involvement in their child's education, and parents are getting more involved. This would probably be true at the library too.

What should the new library look and feel like, what sort of features will be important? What will make it successful?

It should feel interesting and friendly to families—like a Borders bookstore (in Visalia). There should be a family area with comfortable seats, rugs and pillows and places where the children can sit on the floor. The family area should have places where children and parents can listen to books on CD and/or music. There should be some educational toys.

It will be important for the library to continue to do outreach work, to promote the new library and to help people get library cards in a way that isn't scary for families in Orange Cove. It will have to be friendly, and people will need to know that it won't be another expense for them.

**Orange Cove Neighborhood Library
Fresno County Public Library
Interview: James Gordon
Victor P. Lopez Community Center
August 19, 2003, 3:30 p.m.**

Background - James (Jim) Gordon holds several key positions in the City of Orange Cove – Chamber of Commerce President, Renewal Community Manager, Assistant to the City Administrator.

What characteristics of Orange Cove seem especially important when planning a new library?

More than 91% of the population is Hispanic – originally from Mexico – more recently from El Salvador. The primary language of the community is Spanish, with 60% of the children entering pre-school speaking Spanish only. More than 70% of residents are employed in agriculture; fieldwork, packing houses, or trucking and service industries. Persistent unemployment traditionally ranges between 20%-30%. Median years of school completed are six. Fewer than one child in five tests at grade level in the public school system.

The city was one of the first in California to achieve an all-Hispanic city council, this occurred in the late 1970s and continues to the present day.

Few families in Orange Cove own more than one car and that are often used to travel to work. Many will walk and bike to the new library and they will bring children in strollers.

Are there trends in Orange Cove that we should consider when planning a new library?

The City Government has adopted a strategy and is implementing a plan to improve the lives of its residents and create a lovely small city.

It wanted to provide jobs for its residents and tax revenues for itself to assure a high level of city services. To prepare for this it negotiated an increase in its surface water allocation from 1,400 to 3,400 acre-feet a year through the middle of the 21st century. It obtained grants and loans to triple the capacity of its water and wastewater systems and provide state of the art operating systems. It obtained a Federal Highway Administration designation as one of twelve corridor study communities in the United States. The completed study recommends for inclusion in the next federal intermodal transportation appropriations bill funding of a widening of the arterial to better connect Orange Cove to the Highway 99 corridor. The city was one of twelve rural communities and Native American reservations in the United States to obtain Renewal Community designation. The city also obtained HUB zone status affording local businesses the opportunity to obtain federal contracts on a negotiated rather than a bid basis, and on contracts they choose to bid, receive preferential treatment.

The City of Orange Cove's initial economic development priority was to preserve its major industry, the growing and packing of citrus. In recent years three citrus packing houses have closed, and one was in the process of closing and selecting a new site,

James Gordon Interview (continued)

perhaps in a nearby town. This would leave Orange Cove with only 400 jobs in its Renewal Community area, and perhaps another 100 within close commuting distance. Since the Renewal Community designation in 2002 three packing houses were reopened, one of which is already undergoing a significant expansion two have invested millions of dollars in expansion and modernization, and one more has announced to the city it will build a new packing house in the city redevelopment area. This activity will provide more than 1,000 jobs in the city and stabilize the primary industry of the area. Approximately, 20% of California's oranges will be packed and shipped from Orange Cove.

The second phase of the economic development strategy is to enhance classroom and vocational educational opportunities preparing residents for a wider range of job and career opportunities than were available previously. Under the leadership of Mayor Victor P. Lopez a campaign to pass a bond issue for the city's first ever high school, a technical and scientific magnet school, passed with more than a 90% majority in city precincts. A private university, Kings College, plans to open in October 2003 in rented space, planning construction of its campus in 2004. Kings College will focus on the careers of teachers and school administrators, offering both B.S. and M.A. degrees, and eventually an Ed.D in Educational Leadership. A charter school will co-locate at the college campus offering an alternative to public school education. The city previously developed a model pre-school program that teaches English language and computer skills to 200 pre-schoolers.

The City of Orange Cove has taken a leadership position in vocational education as well. It organized a pre-apprenticeship training program in the construction trades operated by Carpenter's Union No 701 and supported with funds from the Fresno Area Workforce Investment Corporation. Local public works projects and others have agreed to guarantee a percentage of their jobs to program graduates. It organized a strategy the county adopted to support industry driven vocational skills training programs and offered a city-owned facility to house this program. The city community center now houses a computer training center used by more than 1,000 people a month where they can attend classes, learn the English language, complete a business plan or submit on-line resumes, or simply scan the internet.

A well-stocked handsome public library facility is very much a part of this second phase. Too many residents do not have the resources to purchase many books or periodicals. Many lack the privacy at home to read or do their homework. The library can provide this as well as open up new vistas in the arts.

A third phase involves the development of a strong retail sector. The mile long commercial street houses forty small businesses, however more than seventy percent of the retail and service purchases of Orange Cove residents are made out of town. The city is partnering with a developer who has purchased land for a regional shopping center to house a major grocery store, smaller shops and house an entertainment center. The city completed a revamping of the street median planting trees and shrubs and providing attractive high intensity street lighting. A program is now underway to upgrade the buildings and businesses on the main commercial street. The city is offering building owners half the costs of the beautification of their facades. The city provides at no cost an architect to help design the façade treatment and a famed color design

James Gordon Interview (continued)

consultant to in her words “make the city a work of art”. An area artist is assisting in the painting of highlights and decorations on the building, and a sign designer is assisting in this aspect of commerce. Building owners are working with their neighbors to integrate the designs on this street. The project is expected to be completed in 2005. In addition, the Orange Cove Area Chamber of Commerce and the city have co-sponsored a series of workshops for small business owners designed to make them more profitable and prepare themselves for the advent to the regional shopping center.

A fourth phase of the development includes other quality of life issues. The city is building a tournament quality championship skateboard and BMX park as a part of the new Senator Dianne Feinstein Public Park across from the new high school. A renovation of Eaton Park in the center of town includes a new Senior Citizens Center and play area for children and teenagers. The city and the Sierra Kings Hospital District have started the planning for an expansion of hospital facilities to Orange Cove.

A fifth phase of economic development includes the construction of affordable multi-family housing and single-family housing. Because of the requirements of Renewal Community tax benefits that workers live in town there is great pressure on the existing housing stock. The city has targeted sixty units a year of multi-family and sixty units a year of single family housing for construction through the end of the Renewal Community designation in 2009.

The sixth phase of the development process will focus on job diversification. The local economy dependent on the citrus industry suffers on average once each twenty years and during the 1990s twice that decade from devastating citrus freezes which brings the economy to a halt. The City of Orange Cove has obtained planning grants for business park development and intends to proceed over the next three years toward having land, infrastructure, and developable pads available to new businesses.

Finally, a rational analysis of the location of Orange Cove clearly shows that it is situated at the base of the north entrance to the magnificent federal parks and forests in the Central Sierra. This provides the opportunity for a host of recreational and hospitality businesses. As the city moves ahead from its image as a tough farmworker town to a beautiful community with a strong economy, these new opportunities should become apparent.

There is much to admire about the Orange Cove of today. Its nearly 9,000 residents support eleven churches. There are strong family bonds and a low crime rate, especially striking when compared to other Central Valley communities of similar demographics. In recent years school meetings are attended by as many as 200 people. Education has become a priority. The community spirit is strong. The Orange Cove Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored a first ever one-day Orange Harvest Festival in 2003. More than 2,200 people attended. All elements of the community, no matter their economic or ethnic background are joining together to participate in the planning and Renaissance of their city. The Presidents of the primarily anglo Orange Cove Women's Club, Orange Cove Area Chamber of Commerce, Orange Cove Lions and Orange Cove Chapter of the American Legion meet together monthly to discuss how their organizations can best participate with the Hispanic City Council to develop the city. Young Hispanic professionals have organized a Youth Council which volunteers to provide recreational

James Gordon Interview (continued)

opportunities and health instruction to the city's teenagers. Recently the San Francisco Academy of Film asked to film a documentary of what a poverty stricken Central Valley town is doing to pull itself up by its bootstraps. The San Jose Mercury News and Los Angeles Times have featured this community as perhaps poised on a brighter future. Certainly, a new library should be at the center of the development.

Orange Cove Neighborhood Library**Fresno County Public Library****Interview: Mario Melendrez, SER Jobs for Progress, Interim Project Manager****Victor P. Lopez Community Center****August 20, 2003, 10:00 a.m.**

Mission—The mission of SER (SER is not an acronym, it is the Spanish verb “to be”) is to sponsor job related programs for minority populations in rural communities. In Orange Cove, the programs have an educational focus and include youth vocational training (youth aged 16-21 years), computer technology training and a GED program aimed at farm workers. As an incentive, SER pays a small bonus to GED participants when they pass each segment of the GED exam.

Background—SER sponsors the computer lab in the Victor P. Lopez Community Center in Orange Cove. Anyone who uses the lab must register, but anyone aged 10 or above is welcome to register. The open hours of the lab vary somewhat, but generally it is open from 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. The space is available as an open lab when it is not being used for classes such as the ESL citizenship class, resume workshops, computer training, etc. Because it is a goal for people to learn to use computers comfortably, any educational use is acceptable, including playing computer games.

On a slow day there may be 60 users of the computers, on a busy day as many as 150 users may come to the lab. People (mostly children) playing games are limited to 30-60 minutes and others can use a computer for 2 hours at a time.

SER staff are available as much as possible to help with questions about computer use, school assignments, resume writing, etc.

There is no collaboration with the school system. Whether or not SER staff can help with homework questions just depends on the staff person's own skills in any area—math, English.

In your opinion, and based on your experience with SER and the community center, what needs are most pressing for the residents of Orange Cove?

I grew up in Orange Cove, and I live in Reedley now. The number one need in Orange Cove is education. By that I mean that people need to have some life skills—they need to speak and read English, they need to know how to use a computer and to understand how that is part of people's lives and work these days. Basically, they need to get with the times.

Also, there is nothing here for kids to do, so when they get to be teens they can get into trouble. They need to have some good choices—maybe the new library could help with that. They will want to have plenty of computers, and some people will need to have training and help to use them. A good place to do homework, where teachers could help would be very good for the kids.

Programs at the library, for kids, would be good too—something interesting for them to do.

Mario Melendrez Interview (continued)

Can you think of other ways that the new library could improve life in the community?

There is such a need for technology access and training—we are always packed and can't help everyone. The library could be another source of technology and training. The computers in the library will need to have software in Spanish.

Also, the computers should have filters, because when I was a boy of maybe 10 or so, my friends and I were in the library and we saw a man using the computer for an adult site. My mother heard my friend and I talking about that and she would never let me go back to the library. A lot of parents here would feel that way and would not let their children go to the library if they might see inappropriate things on the computers.

Tutoring would be good at the new library—a place where kids and others could get help with their school work.

Many people in Orange Cove cannot read—in Spanish or English. It would be good to have literacy training at the new library—in a way that won't embarrass people. Also, people come here and ask me, and other staff, to read things for them. It might be a note from their child's school, or a letter from the immigration service, or papers that they are supposed to sign. They want someone to read it to them so they know what is going on.

**Orange Cove Neighborhood Library
Fresno County Public Library
Interview: Father Robert Davis
San Isadore the Farmer Catholic Church
August 20, 2003, 2:30 p.m.**

Background—There are approximately 900 families in the San Isadore Parish, though not all are officially registered due to immigration concerns. Most families are either long-term residents of Orange Cove, or new arrivals to the area via Mexico or El Salvador. Father Davis serves an economically poor congregation. There is no Catholic Parochial School in Orange Cove, and parents who are able to do so send their children to nearby Reedley (6 miles) to the Catholic School there. As part of his community duties as Parish Priest, Father Davis works with teens and children in the community, in the areas of religious education, life skills, moral education and life enrichment.

Are there trends in Orange Cove that we should consider when planning a new library?

Things are changing in Orange Cove. There is new hope for the community and there is building going on—new schools are under construction, the downtown is getting a face lift, we've beautified the Church and a number of new homes are under construction. I am often asked to bless the land for a home site and then I am asked to return to bless the home when it is completed.

These new homes are comfortable and families are very pleased to be able to purchase a nice home. Still, they worry about having enough work. I was at a new home today, with air conditioning, but they would not turn it on in spite of the heat because the father of the house had only worked for 3 hours today and their income is uncertain.

How can a new library in Orange Cove help the community to move forward? What library services seem most important for the residents of Orange Cove?

The most pressing need in Orange Cove is for education. Though some will go on to higher education, most people in Orange Cove need literacy, computer and vocational training. People here struggle against poverty and lack of opportunity.

They need educational opportunities with immediate results. The library could provide computer training, reading and story programs for children and how-to seminars for the community. But, it will be important that the programs not be patronizing—they should empower people. If they are patronizing they will be perceived as an extension of prejudice.

People need to have access to the Internet, but they should have filters on the computers at the library.

The new library must be very bi-lingual if it is to be successful and it must show good quality in the building and the books.

Students need a good, quiet place to study—parents aren't always able to help their children with their studies. Also, our high school students are bused to Reedley, and others attend parochial school there—this means that they don't get home until a little

Father Robert Davis Interview (continued)

later, so the library needs to be open in the evenings. Parents work until late, so they too must have evening hours.

Book collections could broaden people's horizons and could give pleasure—these should be good, wholesome books.

How should this library look and feel, how can it be welcoming to this community?

The building should have some height, high spaces that look upward—this will give a sense of hope—hope is upward.

There should be comfortable spaces, reading nooks and the inside and outside should be tied together. It should feel like a Borders bookstore in some ways. Some good examples of places where the outdoor areas are well connected to the buildings are Children's Hospital in Fresno and the Clovis Community Hospital.

There must be air conditioning. This should not be a haven for the homeless.

There should be some art spaces and a celebration of culture (Mexican and El Salvadoran). It must not intimidate and the architects should really think of ways to welcome the Hispanic culture. If you do this, people will flock to the new library.

Make the building a place that will get a "Wow!" out of people.

Any other comments?

Good luck on the grant and the library. The Church helps people with their spiritual lives and we provide some economic and food assistance, but a new library would greatly enrich the lives of the people of Orange Cove.

Orange Cove Neighborhood Library**Fresno County Public Library****Interview: Claudia Garcia and Horacio Bravo, Orange Cove Youth Center****Victor P. Lopez Community Center****August 21, 2003, 10:00 a.m.**

Mission—The Orange Cove Youth Center is a newly formed organization serving the recreational and educational interests of young people between the ages of 12-18 in the Orange Cove community. In the future the organization hopes to expand into activities for younger children, ages 6-12, as well.

Background—The Youth Center was formed by a group of twelve Orange Cove volunteers in their late teens and early twenties, with the goal of providing safe and enjoyable, year-round recreational and educational activities for young people in the community. There is not a lot for young people to do in Orange Cove, so the Youth Center seeks to meet a community need.

When the group was formed earlier in the year, they spoke with youth in the Orange Cove community to determine what kinds of activities would be of interest. Since that time, scheduled activities, all held at the Victor P. Lopez Community Center, have included dances, movie nights and a health fair. The dances are especially successful, with 80-130 attendees. Dance nights are chaperoned, and include a DJ, dance contests and refreshments.

In your opinion, and based on your experience with youth in the community, what needs are most pressing for young people in Orange Cove, and how can we plan the new library to help meet those needs?

Young people need access to computers—almost no one here has a home computer, but everyone needs to know how to use a computer for school and work. Also, young people enjoy using computers and learning on the computer. If the library has plenty of computers and is a welcoming place young people in the community will be there.

Computer training classes for teens and 20-somethings would be useful—not just beginning use, but intermediate and advanced training too.

The library will need to have hours after school, in the evenings and on weekends.

It would be good for the library to sponsor a teen board that can advise them on youth library services and collections. The youth board could also work as a tutoring group or could find other young people interested in tutoring people in the community—in school subjects, in English language acquisition and in computer skills.

The library should be a cultural center—with art and music. Most people here came from either Mexico or El Salvador—some are recent immigrants. Mexico and El Salvador both have traditions of music and art, but there is no art or music in Orange Cove. The children born here and growing up here are losing their understanding of the cultures they came from.

There should be space to display art in the library and there should be art programs—both educational and hands on—maybe programs about art in Latin America.

Claudia Garcia and Horacio Bravo Interview (continued)

There should be a space for programs for young people—they are not exposed to many cultural things here so they are bored and unaware of possibilities.

The new library should have an outdoor space, with water—a fountain or pond. The chairs inside should be comfortable—maybe bean bag chairs or other places where kids can sit on the floor.

If the new library cooperates with other groups, like ours and others, it will be more successful in getting its message out.

The people who work in the library should speak Spanish and everyone who comes to the library should feel welcome there.

Orange Cove Neighborhood Library**Fresno County Public Library****Interview: Carol Lopez Doerksen, Coordinator for District School Libraries****Kings Canyon Unified School District****September 15, 2003, 10:00 a.m.**

Mission—The vision of the Kings Canyon Unified School District library media centers is to ensure that all students acquire a lifelong interest in reading, develop an understanding and appreciation of literature, and become effective users of information. Library media centers will function as information centers of the schools using a variety of resources, which include various technologies. Teachers and library staff will collaborate to provide resources and resource-based learning activities in the library for all students. Students will be provided an environment that encourages reading for pleasure and a climate conducive to learning which will provide the opportunity to develop skills for independent, lifelong learning.

Background & Statistical Data—The new middle school being constructed in Orange Cove will have a library, which will be located in a common area that is shared by administration and the library. Plans for the new high school include a separate, high-tech library with wireless service. The new high school will be a magnet school for science and engineering, so the library collections will include both general collections and specialized in the sciences and engineering.

All of the Kings Canyon Unified School District schools in Orange Cove, as well as Reedley High School which serves Orange Cove students, currently have libraries.

Sheridan Elementary School, (gr. K-5), has 10,900 print volumes in the library plus 178 audiovisual items. It is open during the school day and after school until 4:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday and is closed on Fridays. There are 7 student computers in the library. A certified Library Technician staffs the library.

Citrus Middle School, (gr. 6-8), has 6,300 print volumes in the library plus 287 audiovisual items. It is open during the school day Monday-Friday. The library at Citrus used to have evening hours, but those have been cut. There are 11 student computers in the library. A Library Technician who is in the process of being certified staffs the library.

McCord Elementary School, (gr.K-5), has 15,500 print volumes in the library plus 253 audiovisual items. It is open during the school day, Monday-Friday. There are 2 student computers in the library. A certified Library Technician staffs the library. The library collection at McCord is quite strong and they have a very high circulation level.

Reedley High School, (gr. 9-12), has 12,870 print volumes in the library plus 770 audiovisual items. It is open Monday-Thursday from 7:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. and Fridays from 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. There are 41 student computers in the library. Staffing includes 1 full-time Library Media Teacher, 1 full-time Library Media Technician, and 1 part-time Library Media Technician.

Carol Lopez Doerksen Interview (continued)

What are the strengths and weaknesses of the school library programs and collections in Orange Cove?

Generally, I think that the libraries are doing a good job. They are able to provide much improved services and collections thanks to the California School Library Act of 1998, which provided desperately needed funding in school libraries.

Hours are limited, so students in Orange Cove need to have access to the public library for their schoolwork requirements.

Orange Cove students must attend high school in Reedley, so it is especially important for them to have access to the local public library.

In your opinion, and based on your experience as a Library Media Teacher, what services and features will be most important in the new Orange Cove Library?

Family involvement in education is very important for success, so a good library in Orange Cove will be able to help parents with their own skills and so can encourage a parent's involvement in his/her child's education.

Cooperation with the schools on a joint venture will make the schools and the library stronger—areas of special interest for cooperation are a homework center and a space for computer training.

Most students from Orange Cove do not have home computers—it is important for students and their families to know how to use computers for school, work and life skills.

The library will need to have textbooks that support the school curriculum.

Reference collections will be important for student work.

Orange Cove Neighborhood Library**Fresno County Public Library****Interview: City Council Members****Frank Martinez, Roy Rodriguez, Adolfo Martinez, Diana Guerra Silva****August & September 2003**

Background—Each member of the Orange Cove City Council was contacted for input regarding library planning. As community leaders, Council Members were asked about their perceptions of community needs and how the new library can help to meet those needs in Orange Cove.

In your opinion, and based on your experience as a civic leader in Orange Cove, what are the most pressing needs of residents?

People want to have better lives—better jobs, nice homes, time to spend with their families, opportunities for their children. The City is working on development projects that can improve the City economically and can improve the quality of life here.

Education is badly needed at all levels—adult education, language education, GED classes, and vocational education.

Children need to be ready for school so that they can do well—ready to read and to learn, with good English skills.

Lots of new immigrants are coming to the city—mostly from Mexico and El Salvador. Often, instead of thinking of Orange Cove as their community, they continue to identify more with Mexico or El Salvador. So they work hard and then go home in the evening—they don't really get involved in the community. We need to help people gain a sense of community, and sense of belonging and of being invested in Orange Cove.

Kids (teens) in Orange Cove have always gone off to Reedley for school, so naturally they tend to identify more with Reedley than with Orange Cove. We will have a new high school here in a couple of years, so more Orange Cove students will be staying in town and they will begin to think of this more as their city. The new library could help kids and new residents identify with the community.

Most people in Orange Cove do not have home computers and they need access to technology.

People are poor, families are large and often more than one family shares a small house. Housing is crowded and noisy. People cannot afford things like computers.

The elderly can be isolated; they need to have more interesting things to do and options of places to go.

I have 2 computers at home and I have teenaged neighbors who come to the house to use them for their homework because they don't have computers (Frank Martinez).

Technology is especially important for the community—adults need help to learn how to use computers, young children need to grow up using a computer and students need to

City Council Members Interview (continued)

be able to use computers for homework and to keep learning more about computer skills.

I see a difference in the people who are moving here now, both people from other countries and from surrounding areas—they are more curious; they want to learn and to use the services that are available.

How can the library help to meet the needs of the residents of Orange Cove?

There need to be lots of computers and training on how to use them. Adults can be intimidated by teens/children who are usually better on the computer, so there should be some classes (evenings and weekends) that are just for adults—so that they can learn comfortably and not feel foolish.

If the new library has good services and is a nice place to be, it could help kids and new residents identify with the community, instead of thinking of their community as being Reedley or the countries that they came from.

The library could have programs for adults, especially new members of the community—programs about the history and government of Orange Cove, Fresno County, California and the U.S.

It would be good to have a place where tutors could work with people one-on-one.

Children need a safe and helpful place after school where they can do their homework.

There should be story times and other activities, like magic or puppet shows, for little children. Their parents could bring them and then work on other things themselves, like studying, reading or computer work. That way they could learn together—it would be good for children and good for adults.

The library should be located so that people can walk to it—near downtown and near schools.

A homework center is a guaranteed success—it is so needed, because many/most children don't have a good place to study at home because homes are overcrowded. Also, their parents can't always help them with their schoolwork due to language problems.

**Orange Cove Neighborhood Library
Fresno County Public Library
Meeting of Community Leaders
Held at the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library
April 2, 2003**

In attendance: Karen Bosch-Cobb (KBC) & Terry Sterling (TS) from Fresno County Public Library

Jim Gordon, City of Orange Cove & President of Orange Cove Chamber of Commerce

Nancy Singer—Business Owner

Lorena Johnson

Oscar Villasenor—Teacher

Bertha Del Bosque—Teacher

Estella Rivera—SER Coordinator

Karen Bosch-Cobb explained the top priorities for library development:

1. Condition of Current Facility
2. Population growth, past and projected
3. School factors, i.e. API scores, number of computer in school

Karen Bosch-Cobb explained the library building blocks:

1. Population
2. Collection size—2.3 items per capita in the rural communities
3. Meeting room
4. Computer Lab
5. Seating—table, carrels, lounge seats
6. Total projected square footage

Community members mentioned that the library should be centrally located, as walking is a major mode of transportation for many people in the town. A new library should be downtown, close to the park, close to the schools and safe for the children and seniors to get to. There are very few unescorted children in the community, most walk with older children and/or adults.

There is not a police force in town.

The Middle School and the New High School are or will be close to the Lopez Center.

Orange Cove is estimating 15,000 to 18,000 population by 2020. Library's projected population is too small--needs to be increased.

Orange Cove is reviewing their City Plan documents and re-developing the Strategic Development and Building Plans. The city wants to preserve and enhance agriculture, but also plan for new industrial development. The city is trying to encourage tourism and hospitality industry in Orange Cove.

- The city is planning on adding 25 housing units.
- The city anticipates 500 people per year until 2009.
- The city will always have a need for low-income housing.
- The city is also developing "Market Rate Houses" 3 to an acre of land.

Community Leaders Meeting Notes (continued)

The city has designated the intersection of Anchor and Summer/Park as a commercial site, with a shopping center and a new private 4 year college located close by.

Community factors:

- Less than 50% of the population has a 6th grade education.
- 91% of the community is Hispanic.
- 10% of the citrus produced in California comes from Orange Cove

City would like to see the library located close to the college/commercial/pediatric center, or as an anchor on Park Avenue.

Important elements to be included in the new library:

- A meeting/conference room
- More Computers
- Preserving local history is important to the long-term residents of the community.
- They would like to see agricultural and packing industry artifacts saved, including photos, citrus packing history, and/or develop a citrus museum.

Is it possible to explore a co-located college/public library?

One possible property mentioned—Sunny Cove packing shed; 6.2 acres.

Orange Cove Neighborhood Library**Fresno County Public Library****Meeting with staff of the Julia A. Lopez Child Development Center, 7 participants****Julia A. Lopez Child Development Center****August 20, 2003, 1:00 p.m.**

Mission—The Center is a state funded child development program to serve the school and reading readiness needs of children aged 3-5 years.

Background—The Center serves approximately 150 children from 5:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. each weekday. There is always a waiting list of families who need/want to have their children enrolled. There are qualification requirements—families must be low income and all parents in the home must either be working or enrolled in a formal training/education program.

The Center has a preschool curriculum—they teach the children about numbers, letters, shapes, colors and expose them to educational concepts and to the sounds and pleasures of language. The teachers are bi-lingual, and so the children quickly become bi-lingual as well. The schools say that it is remarkable how well prepared the children from the Center are when they enter kindergarten. All of the children who have been in the program for 1-2 years are able to speak both English and Spanish when they leave.

The school day includes a free choice method of teaching, which allows students to choose activities—numbers, letters, pouring/building activities, etc. There are also story times with stories and songs, games and puppets. There is an arts/crafts area where children enjoy doing artwork and where their motor skills and creative abilities are practiced.

During the day children have nutritional meals and regular nap times.

They try to work with parents too, but they are very busy—working long hours and going to school, so it is hard. Many parents need to improve their parenting skills and they don't always know how important it is to read to their children. Most parents do not speak English (speak Spanish).

Following an explanation of the needs assessment for the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library.....How can the new library help you and Orange Cove families achieve your goals?

There is a bookmobile from the Fresno County Public Library that comes and gives stories and lets us borrow books for the Center. That has been very popular. It would be good for the new library to have children's programs and to loan us books to read with the children here.

Programs would be of interest to adults too—maybe educational programs in agriculture, like how to graft fruit trees or small business training and basic tax seminars.

The library should have lots of children's picture books and some books should be in Spanish and English so that parents can read to their children. Films and music are important—so that English and Spanish are used together allowing people to be

Julia A. Lopez Child Development Center Staff Meeting Notes (continued)

exposed to the English language often. There will need to be a place to watch/listen in the library because many people in the community do not have equipment at home. Also, all of the parents we work with are in training or working, so they will need to have evening and Saturday hours to use the new library. When they come here to parent meetings we don't have enough parking—the library will need to have parking spaces.

Most of our families don't have a computer in their homes. They need plenty of computers in the library and people to help them learn how to use a computer.

Parenting collections are needed—especially in Spanish. Also, videos about parenting. These should be where the parents will see them when they take their children to the library.

The new library should look inviting and comfortable. The staff must be able to speak Spanish or people will not feel comfortable there.

The children's area of the new library should be separate and should be colorful and fun.

The building should have lots of light and windows and there should be a pretty outdoor area with benches. Quiet places to study are needed and a place to read magazines and newspapers (in Spanish and English).

Parents need literacy training and job skill training. Many cannot help their children with their homework, because they cannot read English. So, the idea of a homework center is good—a place where kids can get good help with their schoolwork.

**Orange Cove Neighborhood Library
Fresno County Public Library
Group Meeting at Julia Lopez Child Care Center—Parents of Preschool Children
Wed, August 20, 2003**

Introductions:

Ken Loders-Bilingual Reference Librarian, Maria Fernandez-Senior Library Assistant II, Drew Harrington-Library Consultant (Mr. Loders and Ms. Fernandez acted as interpreters for the largely Spanish-speaking participants)

In attendance: Sixty persons, mostly parents

Drew Harrington- Orange Cove has the opportunity to build a new library. We need your help to obtain the bond for funding and we need your input about library services and needs.

What ages are your children?

Answers – 2, 3, 5, 9,10, 13, 17

What are some things that you like about living in Orange Cove?

Answers – It is a quiet place, peaceful, no gangs, schools are nearby, new high school being built.

What are some things that you do not like about living in Orange Cove?

Answer - A limited number of stores and jobs. Many of us have to go to other communities for jobs and shopping.

Are there any trends in Orange Cove that we should know about when planning this library?

Answer – The community is growing. A lot of new people are moving in. New schools are being built.

How many of you have visited the Orange Cove Library?

Answer – About 10

What services do you use at the library? Do you go to read books or newspapers or to check out books to take home?

Answer – To check out books, but the selection is so small.

Have you visited libraries in other communities?

Answer – Yes, perhaps 5-6 people have gone to Reedley and Sanger where there are larger collections.

Julia Lopez Child Care Center Parents Meeting Notes (continued)

How many here have a working computer at home? How many have Internet service?

Answer—4 people have a working computer, 1 person has Internet service at home.

In a new library what would you consider to be the most important services offered--more books, videos, cassettes, special programs, homework center, career & job center or computers and computer training?

Answer – We need all of those services, but if we have to pick one it would be the computers and computer classes.

What days and times would you want the library to be open?

Answer – Mon – Sat. Some evening hours opened until 7 or 8 pm for homework help.

What kinds of books and other materials would you like to have in the library?

Answer – More books, magazines and videos in Spanish. About half English and half Spanish. The children will read English.

How important is having a Spanish speaking staff person at the library?

Answer – Very important. Everybody here speaks Spanish.

What kind of books and services would you like to have for older kids—teens and young adults?

Answer – Reference books, books to help with their school work, computers, and tutors in a homework center.

Imagine this new library, what would you like it to have, how would it look, how would you know you were welcome?

Answer – Lots of trees all around the outside, with tables and chairs for reading. We want it to be organized by age groups and quiet reading areas. It should have an area for little ones with a nice carpet for them to sit on.

What kind of chairs, soft, hard, small or large?

Answer – Soft ones and some hard ones and a coffee bar. We all have to go to Reedley or Dinuba for the good coffee.

Would you visit the library by yourself or as a family?

Answer - As a family.

Julia Lopez Child Care Center Parents Meeting Notes (continued)

Would you like the new library to be mostly a quiet place or an active, busier place?

Answer – Some quiet areas and some active.

**Orange Cove Neighborhood Library
Fresno County Public Library
English as a Second Language, Citizenship Class, 21 participants
Translator, Margarita Ruiz, from the FCPL, acted as interpreter
Victor P. Lopez Community Center
August 19, 2003, 6:00 p.m.**

How many of you are from Orange Cove?

Everyone is either from Orange Cove or nearby.

As newcomers, soon to be citizens, what things do you need most?

We need many things.

We need books in both Spanish and English—fiction books and stories, recreational books.

There should be books available for children and adults.

Non-fiction books are needed as well.

Books that will help students with their studies.

We need more bilingual books; children usually only get them in school. It would help if the adults could know what was going on in the books as well.

How many here have used the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library?

Two people.

One man noted that he "did not get what he needed" at the library. The library staff person did not speak Spanish, and he got frustrated, because he was unable to make her understand what he wanted/needed.

Another man said that he went to use the computer, but ran into problems, because the staff could not help him (language problem).

How important is it that a library staff person speaks Spanish?

Very important!

What else do you need that the new library could provide?

Computers! Enough computers so that people don't have to wait.

Some people will need to have training to use the computers, others already know how. Training on the computers will need to be in Spanish and English.

Films and music are also needed—in both Spanish and English.

Magazines and newspapers are needed, in both English and Spanish.

ESL Citizenship Class Meeting Notes (continued)

How many people here have a computer at home?

No one has a home computer.

What is most important in the new library—books/print, audiovisual materials or computers?

All, all are equally important, we need to have all of these things, and we want a choice of Spanish or English.

Besides collections, there could be programming and other services in the new library, such as a homework center, career information, programs for children and programs for adults. Would you use/attend these if they were available?

Everyone says, yes. But, we work until 5:00 or later, so we would need to go in the evenings, between 6:00 p.m.-8:00 or 8:30 p.m. and/or on Saturdays.

We will take our children to programs if they are in the evenings or on the weekend. Children will use a homework center after school, before the parents get off of work.

How do you and your children get to the library, or how would you get to the new library?

Some will drive, many will walk (staff notes that many people in Orange Cove use bicycles as transportation).

What should the new library that is being planned for Orange Cove look like, how would it feel, what would be inviting and how would it make you feel welcome?

It should be beautiful, luxurious and air – conditioned.

Some chairs should be soft, comfortable, plush, like Barnes & Noble bookstores, and some chairs should be at tables—adult size and also children's size.

We need rapid service, and quick access to magazines and to computers.
We need vending machines.

Is there anything else that we can do, in the planning of this library, to better serve you?

Children's audiovisual material in both English and Spanish.

Library staff comments:

Many people use bikes to get around in Orange Cove.
Maybe, we could use "lending locks" for people to "lock up their bicycles." We could hold their library cards, etc. until they leave.
A good bike rack is needed; we had problems with the one at Central. Several bikes were stolen, after leaving them out front.

Orange Cove Neighborhood Library
Fresno County Public Library
Open Computer Lab Users, 8 participants, informal, drop-in discussion
Victor P. Lopez Community Center
August 19, 2003, 6:30 p.m.

The computer lab, housed in the Victor A. Lopez Community Center, is administrated by SER Jobs for Progress. The computer lab is used both for scheduled class needs and also as an open lab, where anyone aged 10 years or older can sign-up and then use computers in the lab whenever they are available. Children under six years of age cannot come in the lab without their parents. Questions were asked after an explanation of the needs assessment process for the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library.

How old are you, please?

Range of ages, 6 boys aged 10-13. Two girls aged 15 and 17 years, one with her infant son.

I see that you are here to use the computers—do you use them for fun, for your homework, for work or for other reasons? Do you have a computer at home too?

The boys like to play video games on the computers and to search for interesting things, and they also use them for homework. The girls are using the computers for homework. None of the eight boys/girls in the lab have a computer at home.

Do you use the libraries at your school and/or the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library?

All have used the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library.

Some use the school library, but not very often. We use it when we go with our classes, but it isn't a good library. Five participants have visited the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library.

When you visit the Orange Cove Neighborhood Library, why do you go, what collections and services do you use there?

We use it because we're bored.

We get books at the Orange Cove Library and we like to play games—they have a checkerboard. Maybe they could have other kinds of board games?

We like to use the computers, but they won't let you play games on the computers at the library. Here (at the Lopez Center) we can play games.

In the library there are too many people, and we always have to wait for a computer.

Do you read in both English and Spanish?

Older girl (aged 17) can read in both languages.

Younger kids (aged 10-14) read in English only.

Open Computer Lab Users Open Discussion Notes (continued)

Should the Library have books in Spanish, English or both?

Various answers: Mostly English
Both Spanish and English

In the new Orange Cove Neighborhood Library, what will be most important—books, audiovisual (films, music) materials or computers? How should the building look and feel?

We need more computers! There need to be enough so that we don't have to wait too long to use one.

They need to have more magazines that kids like—Thrasher, Super Streak, car magazines

They need magazines for teen girls too, in Spanish and English—YM, Tu, J-14

Movies and films are popular too

Music CDs of all kinds

There should be big, soft chairs

We need to have a water fountain and the building needs to be air-conditioned.

Sometimes its hard to get places in Orange Cove—it would be nice to have a shuttle to the library, especially for rainy days.

After school, do you go home to do your homework or someplace else—does anyone go to the library?

Some go home, 2-3 go to the library.

Facilitator asks about the usefulness of a homework center—students ages 6-14 indicate yes, they would use the library after school if it was a nice place to be, students had access to computers and text books, and there were people to help with homework questions. They also noted that basic school supplies and dictionaries will be needed in a homework center.

Do you have a library at your schools? Do you use that library?

Yes, they have a library, but they don't use it much because it doesn't have much that they want to use, they are not allowed to do much there and there are no computers that they can use.

Are there other services that you would like to see in the new Orange Cove Library?

We need to have childcare/babysitting services in Orange Cove so that parents can take advantage of classes and programs. (Facilitator asks if it would be of interest to have children's/toddler's programs and adult computer training classes or adult programs in the library at the same time so that both young children and parents can attend programs simultaneously)—yes, that would be of interest.

Open Computer Lab Users Open Discussion Notes (continued)

Programs for little children—teen mother says that she would take her son to library programs.

Kids need to be able to call home or call for rides, so there needs to be a telephone.

**Orange Cove Neighborhood Library
Fresno County Public Library
Focus Group: Seniors, 25 participants
Victor P. Lopez Community Center
July 23, 2003 and August 20, 2003**

Background—The Orange Cove Senior Center burned in 2002. A new center is currently under construction and in the meantime, Seniors meet in the Victor P. Lopez Community Center for lunch and activities.

The Seniors group met with Jim Gordon, Assistant to the City and Administrator and President of the Orange Cove Chamber of Commerce, in July and again, briefly, with the library consultant in August.

The Orange Cove Library Project and the guidelines of the Library Bond Act were explained to the group.

As senior residents of Orange Cove, what services can a new library offer that will be useful and important for you?

It is very noisy in the library. There should be a quiet and separate area for seniors to use—away from the children's area.

Books and newspapers in Spanish.

Air conditioning and comfortable places to sit.

Computers?—maybe some people would like to learn to use a computer, but not sure.

It would be good for the library to sponsor storytelling and an oral history project so that seniors who want to could tell children about the history of the area and tell traditional stories to children—in Spanish.

Appendix D: Library Reader Seating

Space		Seating Type	# Tables	# Seats	SF per Chair	SF Needed
Reader Seating:						
For Adults						
3.3	Adult & Teen Reference	4-place tables, rectangular	1	4	25	100
3.5	Adult Circulating Books	4-place tables, rectangular	2	8	25	200
3.6	Quiet Reading/Study Area	1-place carrels	4	4	32	128
3.7	Community Living Room / Magazines & Newspapers	lounge chairs	0	4	35	140
3.7	Community Living Room / Magazines & Newspapers	4-place tables, rectangular	1	4	25	100
Adult Seating subtotal:				24		668
For Teens						
3.8	Teen Area	4-place tables, round	1	4	22	88
3.8	Teen Area	lounge seats w/ tablet arms	0	2	35	70
Teen Seating subtotal:				6	57	158
For Children						
4.3	Children's Circulating Books	4-place tables, rectangular	3	12	25	300
4.5	Picture Books & Parenting Collection	4-place tables, round, toddler size	2	8	22	176
4.5	Picture Books & Parenting Collection	2-place lounge chairs	0	1	45	45
Children's Seating subtotal:				21		521
Reader Seating total:				51		1347
3.6 seats per every 1000 people						
Note: Additional seats will be available in the Community Room/Homework Center (60 seats) and the Group Study, Conference & Tutoring room (6 seats)						

1

Fresno County Public Library
Community Needs Assessment

		Items Owned	% on Shelf	Items Shlvd	Shelf Type	Items/LF	LF Needed	Sections Needed	Aisle Width	SF Needed	Shelf Code
	Teen Books										
3.7	New/Display	100	50%	50	66'/4sh+base	4	13	1.0	48"	12	J
3.7	Mass Market Paperbacks	800	60%	480	Spinners inset into shelf unit	na	na	1.7	42"	17	H
3.7	Fiction & Genre	1,200	70%	840	66'/4sh+base	12	70	5.8	42"	60	J
3.7	Nonfiction	800	70%	560	66'/4sh+base	12	47	3.9	42"	40	J
3.7	Spanish Language Fiction & Genre	100	70%	70	66'/4sh+base	10	7	0.6	42"	6	J
3.7	Spanish Language Nonfiction	100	70%	70	66'/4sh+base	10	7	0.6	42"	6	J
3.7	Spanish Language Photonovelas	200	60%	120	66"/3 sh+base, dividers	16	8	0.8	42"	9	K
3.7	Text books	100	100%	100	66'/4sh+base	8	13	1.0	42"	11	J
3.7	Graphic Novels	300	40%	120	66"/3sh+base, dividers	16	8	0.8	42"	9	J
3.7	Teen Parenting Collection	300	70%	210	66'/4sh+base	10	21	1.8	42"	18	J
	Total Teen Books	4,000		2,620			192	17.0		187	
	Children's Books:										
4.1	Children's Reference	200	100%	200	66"/4sh+base, dividers, rollout, 12" shelf	7	29	2.4	46"	27	M
4.1	New/Display	100	50%	50	66'/4sh+base	10	5	1.0	48"	11	J
4.3	Fiction & Genre	1,200	70%	840	66'/4sh+base	12	70	5.8	42"	60	J
4.3	Nonfiction	2,700	60%	1,620	66'/4sh+base	12	135	11.3	42"	116	J
4.3	Textbooks	100	100%	100	66'/4sh+base	8	13	1.0	42"	11	J
4.3	Spanish Language Fiction & Genre	300	70%	210	66'/4sh+base	15	14	1.2	42"	12	J

		Items Owned	% on Shelf	Items Shlvd	Shelf Type	Items/LF	LF Needed	Sections Needed	Aisle Width	SF Needed	Shelf Code
4.3	Spanish Language Nonfiction	1,700	70%	1,190	66"/4sh+base	15	79	6.6	42"	68	J
4.5	Picture Bks/Board Bks	2,300	60%	1,380	42"/2sh+base, dividers, 12" shelf	20	69	7.7	42"	86	S
4.5	Spanish Language Picture Bks/Board Bks	1,200	60%	720	42"/2sh+base, dividers, 12" shelf	20	36	4.0	42"	45	S
4.3	Easy Readers	1,200	65%	780	66"/4sh+base	16	49	4.1	42"	42	J
4.3	Paperbacks	800	70%	560	Spinners inset into shelf unit	na	na	1.9	42"	20	H
	Total Children's Books	11,800		7,650			498	47		498	
	Total Book Collection:	27,300		18,245			1,576	120.0		1,286	
	Audiovisual Media										
	Adult & Teen Media:										
3.2	Video	70	50%	35	66"/4sh+ base	10	4	0.3	42"	3	J
3.2	Spanish Language Video	100	50%	50	66"/4sh+ base	10	5	0.4	42"	4	J
3.2	DVD (English or multi-track)	850	50%	425	66"/AV browse 5 bins	25	17	1.1	42"	12	N
3.2	Spanish Language DVD	300	50%	150	66"/AV browse 5 bins	25	6	0.4	42"	4	N
3.2	Music CDs	1,000	65%	650	66"/AV browse 5 bins	25	26	1.7	42"	18	N
3.2	Audio Books	480	70%	336	66"/4sh+ base	8	42	3.5	42"	36	J
3.2	CD-ROM & Software	150	70%	105	66"/4sh+ base	10	11	0.9	42"	9	J
3.2	Language Learning	300	80%	240	66"/4sh+ base	10	24	2.0	42"	21	J
	Total Adult & Teen Media:	3,250		1,991			134	10		107	

		Items Owned	% on Shelf	Items Shlvd	Shelf Type	Items/LF	LF Needed	Sections Needed	Aisle Width	SF Needed	Shelf Code
	Children's Media:										
4.4	Video	50	50%	25	66"/4sh+ base	10	3	0.2	42"	2	J
4.4	Spanish Language Video	100	50%	50	66"/4sh+ base	10	5	0.4	42"	4	J
4.4	DVD (English or multi-track)	400	50%	200	66"/AV browse 5 bins	25	8	0.5	42"	5	N
4.4	Spanish Language DVD	300	50%	150	66"/AV browse 5 bins	25	6	0.4	42"	4	N
4.4	Music CDs	300	70%	210	66"/AV browse 5 bins	25	8	0.6	42"	6	N
4.4	AV Kits (hang-ups)	300	60%	180	66"/ 3 sh, AV hangup	12	15	1.7	42"	17	O
4.4	CD-ROM & Software	100	70%	70	66"/4sh+ base	10	7	0.6	42"	6	J
4.4	Language learning	100	80%	80	66"/4sh+ base	10	8	0.7	42"	7	J
	Total Children's Media:	1,650		965			60	5.0		52	
	Total Media Collection:	4,900		2,956			194	15		158	
	Total Books & Media:	32,200		21,201			1,770	135		1,444	
	Magazines & Newspapers										
3.6	Adult Eng. Lang Magazine Display	30 titles	100%	30	66"/ 4sh slanted, hinged w/ flat shelf below	1	30	2.5	42"	26	P
3.6	Adult Span. Lang. Magazine Display	24 titles	100%	24	66"/ 4sh slanted, hinged w/ flat shelf below	1	24	2.0	42"	21	P
3.6	Adult English Lang Newspapers	8 titles	100%	8	66"/4sh plexi inserts	1	8	0.7	42"	7	Q
3.6	Adult Span. Languages Newspapers	8 titles	100%	8	66"/4sh plexi inserts	1	8	0.7	42"	7	Q

		Items Owned	% on Shelf	Items Shlvd	Shelf Type	Items/LF	LF Needed	Sections Needed	Aisle Width	SF Needed	Shelf Code
3.6	Adult Newspaper Backfiles	16 titles	100%	16	66"/4sh flat+base, 15" shelf	2 titles per shelf	24	2.0	42"	24	R
3.7	Teen Eng. Lang. Magazines Display	12 titles	100%	12	66"/ 4sh slanted, hinged w/ flat shelf below	1	12	1.0	42"	10	P
3.7	Teen Span. Lang. Magazines Display	6 titles	100%	6	66"/ 4sh slanted, hinged w/ flat shelf below	1	6	0.5	42"	5	P
4.1	Children's Eng. Lang. Magazines Display	12 titles	100%	12	66"/ 4sh slanted, hinged w/ flat shelf below	1	12	1.0	42"	10	P
4.1	Children's Span. Lang. Magazines Display	6 titles		6	66"/ 4sh slanted, hinged w/ flat shelf below	1	6	0.5	42"	5	P
4.5	Parenting Magazines, Eng. Lang.	5 titles		5	66"/ 4sh slanted, hinged w/ flat shelf below	1	5	0.4	42"	4	P
4.5	Parenting Magazines, Span. Lang.	4 titles		4	66"/ 4sh slanted, hinged w/ flat shelf below	1	4	0.3	42"	3	P
	Total Mag & Newspaper	115 titles					139	11.6		123	
	Total Linear/Square Ft Needed:						1,909	146.9		1,567	
	2.30 vols. Per capita										

Planning Guides:

Altman, Ellen, editor. Local Public Library Administration. ALA, 1980

Brawner, Lee and Donald Beck. Determining Your Public Library's Future Size: A Needs Assessment and Planning Tool. ALA, 1996

Brown, Carol R. Interior Design For Libraries: Drawing on Function & Appeal. ALA, 2002.

Holt, Raymond M. Wisconsin Building Project Handbook. Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, n.d.

Wheeler, Joseph L. and Herbert Goldhorns. Practical Administration of Public Libraries. Harper & Row, 1981.

Sources on U.S., California, Fresno, Fresno County Public Library and Orange Cove Neighborhood Library Service Area:

Arax, Mark, "Town Wants More Than Citrus Trees; Economics: Orange Cove has Fruit Groves and Much Poverty: Mayor Hopes to Lure New Jobs", Los Angeles Times, February 10, 2002.

D'Elia, George. Fresno County Library Satisfaction Survey. University of New York, Buffalo, 1998.

California Association of Realtors

California Department of Education, <http://api.cde.ca.gov>

California State Library, State Data Coordinator

Collins & Schoettler Planning Consultants, Orange Cove General Plan Update, Draft April 2003.

Fresno Bee staff writer, "Valley Students Fail to Apply for Grants", Fresno Bee, February 4, 2003.

Fresno County Council of Governments.

Fresno County Public Library. Capital Facilities Assessment. Meeting Needs for the Fresno County Residents 1990-2005. 1990.

Fresno County Public Library. The Heart of a Community: Its Public Library: Meeting Library Needs for Fresno County Residents: 2002-2020. 2003.

Fresno County Public Library. Fowler Neighborhood Library Needs Assessment, 2003.

Fresno County Public Library. Mendota Neighborhood Library Needs Assessment, 2003.

Godbe Research and Analysis, Fresno County Library Survey of Voters and Residents, April 1998.

Godbe Research and Analysis, Fresno County Library Survey of Voters and Residents, 2003.

Kings County Unified School District

National Adult Literacy Survey, <http://www.nifl.gov/readers/intro.htm>

National Institute for Literacy, <http://www.nifl.gov/nifl/index.html>

Public Library Data Service, Statistical Report 2003, ALA, 2003.

Rodriguez, Joe, "Latino Leaders Take the Reins", San Jose Mercury News, May 20, 2003.

U.S. Census Bureau 1990 Census of Population and Housing

U.S. Census Bureau 2000 Census of Population and Housing